

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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FRONT COVER: Rough-legged Hawk flying over Pioneer Hi-Bred research fields, Johnston, Polk County, 27 December 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

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Meet an Iowa Birder — Douglas C. Harr

James J. Dinsmore



Douglas C. Harr

Doug Harr was born on 3 September 1947 in Tacoma, Washington. At age 5 his family moved to Monticello, MN where he grew up and graduated from Monticello High School. He attended South Dakota State University in Brookings where he received a B.S. majoring in Wildlife Management in 1969 and an M.S. in Wildlife Biology in 1971. He and his wife Nina have two children, Ryan, 25, who is currently working on a master's degree in Wildlife Biology at Iowa State University, and Allison, 22, a recent graduate of Viterbo University in LaCrosse, WI, who is working in St. Paul.

Doug's earliest recollection of an interest in birds dates back to when he lived in Tacoma. There he recalls being fascinated by some of the birds he saw around his family's home. His first formal exposure to birds and birding came from his fourth grade teacher who had a strong interest in birds and taught a unit

on birds and their habits. When Doug was 10, he got his first bird book. The book was by Herbert Zim and Ira Gabrielson and was part of a boxed set of several guides that included field glasses as well. Doug still has the book and considers it his first field guide.

He had a second early mentor, a ninth grade science teacher in Monticello who was interested in birds and often visited Doug's rural home to view the birds found there. Doug notes that prior to meeting this man, all of the people he had met who were interested in birds were women. Thus, this exposure to a male birder made him realize that it was okay for men to have this interest as well.

Doug also had strong support for his interest in birds and other outdoor activities from his parents. His father worked at a bank in Monticello but had a long-time interest in boats and nautical activities while his mother's family included several avid hunters. He also had several relatives who had careers in wildlife biology or forestry. With those family interests, it was natural for Doug to think about a career involving wildlife.

At South Dakota State University, Doug met yet another person who had a strong influence on his interest in birds: Professor Ray Linder, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee who taught ornithology and other bird-related courses there. Doug signed up for the ornithology course while still a sophomore although normally it was restricted to juniors and seniors. Eventually, while in graduate school, Doug was given the responsibility of teaching this course. His master's thesis was on the interpretive value of wetlands in South Dakota.

After graduation, Doug accepted a position with the Iowa Conservation Commission (now the Iowa Department of Natural Resources [DNR]) as wildlife biologist for the newly formed Big Sioux Wildlife Unit in northwestern Iowa. (See the article by Doug, "Birding on the Edge: Western Lyon County," in this issue.) At the time, even though the unit included Dickinson County, it was considered an undesirable outpost that most biologists did not

want to move to. When Doug arrived in 1972, he was responsible for managing about 6,000 acres in a region of heavily farmed land. Money for land acquisition was scarce, and it was not until 1984 that he was able to add any new land to the unit. When Doug left that position in 2001, he was responsible for managing about 16,000 acres including about 4,000 acres of federal land. Much of this growth came as the result of an infusion of federal money through the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Doug and others in northwestern Iowa facilitated much of this growth by developing good plans identifying the best areas for future purchase. Thus, they were able to move rapidly whenever money was available. As a result, the Big Sioux Unit now contains some great birding areas. In 2000, Doug received a national Partner In Flight (PIF) Stewardship award for his role in developing these public areas.

In 2001, Doug accepted a new challenge and began working with the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program. Soon he was in charge of that program and currently he is Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator, working out of Boone and Des Moines. Although funds continue to be scarce, in recent years federally funded State Wildlife Grants have allowed him to fund some land acquisition as well as research projects on several nongame species. He also has provided leadership for the designation of six Bird Conservation Areas (BCAs) in Iowa with several more in the works.

Doug does keep a life list which totals 411 species but notes that most of his birding has been in the Midwest. Trips to Florida, the Southwest, and other bird-rich areas have often been on family vacations with little time for birding. He has visited both Mexico and Jamaica, and also the arctic tundra near Churchill, Manitoba as part of a DNR project. It was at Churchill that he saw what he considers his most exciting find, a Ross's Gull in 1983. At that time Ross's Gull was still an extreme rarity and few North American birders had ever seen one. He also enjoyed the opportunity to see nesting shorebirds, jaegers, and waterfowl that were plentiful there.

During the many years that Doug lived in northwestern Iowa, birders had few opportunities to meet or bird with him. To illustrate his isolation, he delighted in telling others that his home in Larchwood was closer to the state capitols of Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska than to Des Moines. He has been a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union since 1977 and has attended a number of IOU meetings, but family and job have prevented him from attending many meetings in eastern Iowa. He has been a regular contributor to the Field Reports section of *Iowa Bird Life*, and for many years he was about the only person reporting from that section of the state. His Dickinson County list of 247 species attests to his birding activity in that area. A Great Black-backed Gull that he found at West Okoboji in 1982 was only the second for Iowa. He also was active in the Prairie Lakes Audubon Society, serving several terms as president and coordinating their annual Christmas Bird Count. In recent years, he has been active with the statewide Audubon Iowa group and currently serves as its vice president. He also is on the Technical Committee for the Important Bird Areas program. With his move to central Iowa in 2001, he has enjoyed the opportunity to become familiar with areas in central Iowa such as Ledges State Park, but still considers the wetlands, grasslands, and associated woodlands of the Kettleston Hogsback area near Spirit Lake as his favorite birding area. Like many birders, he considers spring as the best time to be in the field.

As one who has known Doug for more than 25 years, I have found him to be one of the nicest people you could imagine. Despite his busy schedule, he has always been willing to help me and my students find study areas or to provide information for our projects. He

also has been a great liaison between the many biologists and others with an interest in birds who work for the Iowa DNR and the birding community. With the growing interest by the Iowa DNR in all of Iowa's wildlife, we are fortunate to have Doug in a leadership position.

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Field Reports — Winter 2003–2004

Robert I. Cecil



Robert I. Cecil

WEATHER

We delayed bad winter weather rather nicely until about mid-January when winter finally set in, turning it into one of those winters that at least kids like — cold, lots of snow, and lots of snow days. December, like four of the past five years, was warmer than normal. There was a cold snap in the middle of the month (Northwood hit -7 on the 12th), but overall, the month was 5.5 degrees above normal, the 33rd warmest in 131 years of records. Snowfall for the state was above average in December, but, with the exception of an early December storm that dumped up to 8 inches in northwestern Iowa, it came in small doses that did not remain around long.

January started out pleasantly, but an Arctic blast brought temperatures down to -15 degrees in Allerton and -8 degrees in Sioux Center on the morning of the 6th. Both precipitation and temperatures seesawed

with bitter cold and snow occurring during a few days at the beginning, middle, and end of the month — the remainder of the time was comparatively mild. Temperature extremes ranged from a high of 65 degrees in Burlington on the 2nd to -22 degrees on the 27th in Sibley. Overall for the month, precipitation and temperatures were almost exactly normal.

February averaged slightly below normal temperatures and slightly above average precipitation. The bitter cold of late January persisted into February, with lows of -17 degrees at Spencer and Sanborn on the 3rd, and at Atlantic, Guthrie Center, and Osceola on the 7th. The last half of the month was warmer than normal, with no subzero temperatures after the 17th. Snowfall was well above average, with significant amounts on the 1st and 2nd and the 4th through the 6th. Overall, it was the ninth snowiest February in 117 years of reporting, although nearly all had melted by the end of the month. The extra day in February got a lot of additional waterfowl and icterid records into the winter season report.

GENERAL TRENDS

The season's mild beginning enticed many waterfowl to linger early in the season — a few hard-core hangers-on managed to stick it out until the second week of January. Of

course, there were a few wintering birds in the rare areas with open water — one wonders if some are not healthy enough to leave. Among raptors, it was a normal year except for Rough-legged Hawk, which had a very strong showing. By early January, gulls completely left all but the Mississippi River — here they remained in good numbers through the season. Unlike Rough-legged Hawk, another Arctic raptor, the Snowy Owl failed to make an appearance, the first time in many winter seasons. Yet another raptorial Arctic species, the Northern Shrike, appeared in about twice its normal numbers. Thrushes were scarce overall as were sparrows. As is always the case, reports of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings coincided with the presence of snow cover. Unusual was the boom or bust for winter finches — “invasion” status could be conferred on Common Redpoll and Pine Siskin, and it was a good year for Purple Finch. Conversely, neither crossbill was reported, nor were any of the more esoteric species.

Migrants began their return early. For example, waterfowl, American Robins, and icterids began trickling into the state between the 18 and 22 February and within a few days they had reached northern Iowa.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species included Whooper Swan, Harlequin Duck, Ferruginous Hawk, Common Raven, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Hoary Redpoll. Casual species included Iceland Gull, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, and Bohemian Waxwing.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The records in this field report are arranged taxonomically following *The A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds* (A.O.U. 1998) through the 44th Supplement (Banks et al. 2003). KAN

SPECIES DATA (ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental species) (* = documented)

Greater White-fronted Goose: Lingering were 2 on 3 Jan at Center L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS), one on 3 Jan at Sand Lake A. in Marshall Co. (MPr), and 2 on 9 Jan and one on 27 Jan at Mabaska Pond in Boone Co. (JJD, WO). Wintering were 2 below Saylorville Res. dam (DK). Migrants began to pour into the state on 27 Feb, with peak counts of 317 on 29 Feb at Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH), 500 on 29 Feb at Sedan Bottoms W.A. in Appanoose Co. (TNJ), and 1,000 on 29 Feb at Cone M. in Louisa Co. (CE, CJC).

Snow Goose: The only mid-winter reports were of 2 on 10 Jan at Big Creek S.P. in Polk Co. (BE) and one on 13–14 Jan at Saylorville Res. (AMJ, MPr). Migrants were first noted on 28 Feb, with peak counts of

4,000 on 28 Feb in Wayne Co. (ABr) and 800 on 29 Feb in Warren Co. (ABr).

Ross's Goose: All: one on 7 Dec at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie Co. (MOr), 3 on 15 Dec and one on 24 Dec at Corydon Res. in Wayne Co. (ABr), one on 31 Dec in Iowa City (JLF), 11 on 28 Feb at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH), one on 29 Feb at Jester P., Saylorville Res. (BE), one on 29 Feb at Pickerel L. in Buena Vista Co. (LAS), and 5 on 29 Feb at Clear L. in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Canada Goose: There were 500 Richardson's race birds on 15 Dec at Corydon Res. (ABr). Birds remained around the state as long there was open water, as with the 1,300 at Ames finally forced out in late January (JJD). The peak count of returning migrants was 10,000 on 29 Feb at Jester P. in Polk Co. (BE).

Mute Swan: Singles wintered at Cedar Rapids and Des Moines. Other reports were from December: 2 at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 2 at the Rathbun Res. CBC, and one at the Keokuk CBC.

Trumpeter Swan: Small numbers were found throughout the season, such as 4 wintering in Mason City (CJF, RGo, PH), 2 wintering below Saylorville Res. dam (DK, BE), 1 on 10 Jan at Maffit Res. in Polk Co. (DT), 1 on 10 Jan at L. Manawa in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), and 2 on 28 Feb on the Mississippi R. in Scott Co. (DGR). Of those noted, about half were unmarked.

Tundra Swan: All: one on 6 Dec through the CBC in Scott Co. (SMF) and 35 on the Green Island CBC.

WHOOPEE SWAN: A report has been referred to the Records Committee.

Wood Duck: There were very few reports and only one after the CBC period: one on 21 Jan at Mason City (RGo).

Gadwall: Wintering were 4 below Saylorville Res. dam (DT, DK, BE). Very small numbers returned on 28–29 Feb; the most northerly was one on 29 Feb at Clear L. (PH).

American Wigeon: All: one on 3 Jan at Sand L. in Marshall Co. (MPr) and one on 29 Feb at Cone M. (CE).

American Black Duck: High count: 8 on 26 Dec at Red Rock Res (SJD); up to 6 wintered (ABr). Returning were 2 on 21 Feb at Sedan Bottoms W.A. (TNJ), 2 on 22 Feb at Saylorville Res. (JJD), and 3 on 29 Feb at Cone M. (CJC, CE).

Mallard x Gadwall: There was one male on 17 Jan and 20 Feb at Red Rock Res. (ABr).

Mallard: The peak count was 3,300 on 28 Dec at Twelve Mile L. in Union Co. (SJD). There were very few reports and none that indicated wintering.

Northern Shoveler: All: 3 on 3 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi), 1 on 13 Jan at Saylorville Res. (KLP), 3 on 28–29 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), and 2 on 29 Feb at Cone M. (CE).

Northern Pintail: Probably returning were 20 on 21 Feb at Sedan Bottoms W.A. (TNJ). Certainly returning were 20 on 27 Feb at Cone M. (THK), 43 on 29 Feb at Clear L. (PH), and 2,200 on 29 Feb at Jester P. (BE).

Green-winged Teal: All: one on 13 Jan below Saylorville Res. (BE), 3 on 29 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), and 5 on 29 Feb at Cone M. (CE).

Canvasback: There were 12,000 on 29 Dec at their staging area at Pool 19 (SJD). Mid-winter reports included one on 3 Jan at Center L. in Dickinson Co. (LAS) and 58 on 16 Feb at LeClaire, Scott Co. (DGR). The 3 birds on 28 Feb at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. were migrants (BFH).

Redhead: January reports include 2 on the third at Center L. (LAS) and up to 3 on the 10th and 14th at Saylorville Res. (BE, KLP, SSP, MPr). The first February report was of 17 on the 19th at LeClaire (DGR), others included 2 on 28 Feb at Sandhill L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 2 on 29 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Ring-necked Duck: There were a few reports of one to 3 from around the state through 4 Jan, and then no reports until the 26 on 17 Feb at LeClair (DGR). At L. Manawa, there were 13 on 28 Feb and 92 on 29 Feb (BKP/LJP).

Greater Scaup: There were up to 17 in late December at Pool 19 (SJD, MCD-details). December reports were from Polk and Union Counties, and the only January report was of 4 on the third at Saylorville Res. (BE), perhaps the origin of the 2 there on 14 Feb (BE). Migrants included 2 on 21 Feb at Rathbun Res. (TNJ) and one on 28 Feb at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH).

Lesser Scaup: There were 3 wintering at Saylorville Res. (DK, KLP, SSP) and one made it at least through January at Cedar L. (BSc, JLF). Other January reports include 2 on the third at Center L. (LAS) and one on the third at Sand Lake A. in Marshall Co. (MPr). Migrants included one on 28 Feb at Port Neal (BFH) and 20 on 29 Feb at Clear L. (PH).

HARLEQUIN DUCK: The first since 1976 and the third overall was a fem/imm. found at Saylorville Res. on 12 Jan and remaining through 14 Jan (*ABr, *AMJ, KLP-details, SLP-details). The two previous reports were also from Polk Co. A second bird, a female, was found on 29 Feb at Moline and seen flying "in the middle of the river" (*Al Frohlich, *THK-photo).

White-winged Scoter: At West Okoboji L., 6 on 6 Dec (LAS) declined to one on 8 Dec (ETh). The only other reports were of 2 each on the Princeton and Davenport CBCs.

Black Scoter: All: one on 2 and 4 Dec at Saylorville Res. (ABr), 2 on 7 and 11 Dec at Saylorville Res. (ABr), and one on 29 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 2 on 17 Dec at Red Rock Res. (ABr), 3 different birds there on 26 Dec. (SJD, JJD), 3 on 29 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD), and 3 on 21 Feb at Wever on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (BSc).

Common Goldeneye: There were the usual large December concentrations on the Mississippi River and the interior reservoirs. Mid-winter reports include 20 on 2 Jan at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 25 on 13 Jan at Saylorville Res. (KLP, SSP), one on 12 and 14 Jan at Clear L. (RGo, CJF), and one on 5 Feb in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo). Returning were 20 on 28 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP) and 25 on 28 Feb at Lansing in Allamakee Co. (DeC).

Bufflehead: By far the most was 25 on 29 Jan at Pool 19 (SJD). Presumably a migrant was one on 21 Feb at Red Rock Res. (WO); another made it to Clear L. on the 29th (PH).

Hooded Merganser: Dwarfing other counts was 116 on 8 Dec at Red Rock Res. (ABr) and 25 on 20 Dec at Cedar L. (MCD) with 13 were still there on 2 Jan (JLF). January reports included one on the 12th and 14th at Clear L. (RGo, CJF) and 2 on the 21st at LeClaire (DGR). February reports began with one on the 21st at Red Rock Res. (WO) and 2 on the 22nd at Waterman Creek W.A. in O'Brien Co. (LAS).

Common Merganser: The usual huge numbers were on the major reservoirs: 10,400 on 12 and 17 Dec at Red Rock Res. (ABr), 5,000 on 29 Dec at Rathbun Res. (SJD, ABr), and 5,300 still at Red Rock Res. on 3 Jan (ABr). The only report from western Iowa was of 9 on 20 Dec at Hitchcock N.A. (MOr). The usual small numbers wintered and migrants had returned to the Mississippi R. at Allamakee Co. by 19 Feb. (DeC).

Red-breasted Merganser: The only report following the CBC period was one on 29 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Ruddy Duck: There were 29 on 25 Dec and 61 on 31 Dec at Montrose in Lee Co. (MCD) in addition to four other CBC reports, all along the Mississippi R. Presumably migrants were 8 on 21 Feb in Lee Co. (BSc).

Gray Partridge: There were 16 reports of one to 20 from throughout the season, most from late January on when there was snow cover. The most southerly reports were from two Polk Co. locations (ABr); the most were 20 on 1 Dec in Story Co. (HZ), 18 on 2 Feb in Story Co. (LDa), and 18 in two groups in Winnebago Co. (PH, RGo). This season was very similar in the number of reports to the 2000–2001 season, also a snowy winter.

Ruffed Grouse: There were no reports from the northeast corner of the state.

Common Loon: The only reports were of one on 1–4 Jan at L. Macbride S.P. in Johnson Co. (JLF) and one on 29 Dec at Rathbun Res. in Appanoose Co. (SJD, ABr).

Pied-billed Grebe: There were 2 that wintered at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids (BSc, CJC, MCD, JLF). The only other reports were from Easter L. in Des Moines on 3 Dec (ABr), and from the Des Moines and Keokuk CBCs.

Horned Grebe: All: 2 on 7 Dec at Saylorville Res. in Polk Co. (ABr) and one through 4 Jan at West Okoboji L. in Dickinson Co. (ETh, LAS).

American White Pelican: Last: 3 on 3 Jan at Red Rock Res. in Marion Co. (ABr). Very early were 6 on 29 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE) and 30 on 29 Feb on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (CE). Either wintering or earlier yet was one on 21 Feb at Red Rock Res. (WO).

Double-crested Cormorant: There was one on 4 and 14 Dec at Coralville Res. in Johnson Co. (JLF). The only other report was of two crippled birds on 29 Dec on Pool 19 of the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (SJD).

Great Blue Heron: Mid-winter reports included 3 on 4 Jan below the Saylorville Res. dam on 4 Jan (BE) and one on 10 Jan in Clay Co. in northwest Iowa (LAS). Bery Engebretsen noted birds returning to a Polk Co. colony in late February.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: For the sixth consecutive year, this species was reported from Cedar L. This year, one subadult and one imm. remained from 20 Dec through mid-February (BSc, MCD-details, JLF), and an adult was there on 26 Feb (CJC).

Turkey Vulture: Very early were one on 24 Feb near Waterloo (RGo) and one on 28 Feb in Lucas Co. (MPr).

Osprey: There was one on 2 Dec at Hitchcock N.A. (*JTo).

Bald Eagle: Numerous birds wintered in northwestern Iowa. There were 192 on 29 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE).

Northern Harrier: There were 12 reports of 23 birds from throughout the season. The only report from roughly the northwestern third of the state was of 3 on 13 Jan at Owego Wetlands in Woodbury Co. (GLV).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Wintering birds included 2 in Winneshiek Co. (DeC) and one at Sioux Center in Sioux Co. (JVD). There were reports of 15 others from throughout the season, almost all from the northern half of the state.

Cooper's Hawk: There were 4 reports of 5 wintering birds, all in the northern half of the state. There were about 17 others

reported from throughout the season, almost all from the northern half of the state. Mark Proescholdt found 10 of these in Marshall, Hardin, and Tama Counties.

Northern Goshawk: All: one on 2 Dec at Dog Creek Park in O'Brien Co. (DK), one on 26 Dec at Oneota Park. in Clay Co. (LAS), one on 28 Dec at Green Valley L. in Union Co. (SJD), one on 12 and 24 Jan at or near the State Forest Nursery in Ames (SSP-details, KLP), and one on 24 Jan at Lime Creek A. in Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: one on 12 Dec at Red Rock Res. (ABr), one on 14 Jan below Saylorville Res. dam (MPr, BPr), one on 30 Jan at Twin Elms A. in Hardin Co. (JNi), and one on 28 Feb in Lucas Co. (MPr). A single bird on 3 Jan at Gull Point S.P. may have also been seen on the Spirit L. CBC (LAS).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: Singles were seen on 10 and 18 Dec at Hitchcock N.A. (*MOr).

Rough-legged Hawk: The Hitchcock N.A. set a daily record of 10 on 16 Dec (MOr) and there were 8 on 21 Feb at Sedan Bottoms W.A. (TNJ). Rita Goranson found 20 during the season in 7 northern counties. There were about 30 additional reports of one to 4 birds from throughout the season and the state. I assume that reporting of this and some other raptors is inconsistent, but this seemed like a very good year.

Golden Eagle: All: one imm. on 15 Jan along the Little Sioux R. in Cherokee Co. (LAS, DK), one ad. on 15 Jan at Waterman Creek W.A. in O'Brien Co. (DK, LAS) and 2 here on 21 Feb (LAS), one imm. on 21 Feb in Winneshiek Co. (DK, DeC), and one ad. on 25 Feb along Highway A-26 in Allamakee Co. (FL). There was also one on the Burlington CBC and 2 on the Yellow River S.F. CBC.

Merlin: The big news was in Des Moines, where at least six were at a roost from early Jan through the period at Glendale Cemetery (RIC, JGi-photo, AMJ, MPr, m.ob.) (Cecil 2004). Other sightings in the Des Moines area probably involved these birds. Elsewhere, there were about 12 reported from throughout the season, almost all in the northern half of the state. Of those identified to race, five were of the Prairie race and two were Taiga.

Peregrine Falcon: All: 2 wintering in Des Moines (RIC, AMJ, JGi, DT), one wintering in Cedar Rapids (BSc, CJC), and one on 1 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo).

Prairie Falcon: All: 2 on 18 Dec at Hitchcock N.A. (*MOr, *CKI) and one on 8 Jan northeast of Montezuma in Poweshiek Co. (*MPr).

American Coot: Wintering was one at Cedar L. (BSc, CJC, JLF). Peak counts were 6 on 1 Jan at Lock and Dam 14 in Scott Co. (MCD) and 6 on 3 Jan at the Johnson Gravel Pits in Polk Co. (DT). A few made it into late January, such as one at Mason City (RGo) and one at Lock and Dam 14 (DGR). There were no additional reports until one on 29 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Sandhill Crane: All: 5 on 10 Dec in northwest Warren Co. (SSP-details), one on 12 Jan along an open stream in Clinton Co. (PVN), one on 28 Feb at Goose L. in Clinton Co. (PVN), and one on 29 Feb at Cone M. (CE, CJC). This species has been reported during 4 of the past 6 winter seasons.

Killdeer: The only mid-winter reports include one on 28 Jan at a wetland south of Cumming in Warren Co. (JGi) and one on 31 Jan at the Decorah trout hatchery (DeC). The first returning migrant was at Cone M. on 27 Feb (THK); 10 additional birds were reported over the next two days, including two that made it to Cerro Gordo Co. (PH).

Wilson's Snipe: All: one wintering at the Decorah trout hatchery (DeC, DK), 3 on 3 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi), 2 on 4 Feb near Decorah (DeC), one on 8 Feb at Hawkeye

W.A. (CJC), and one on 28 Feb at North Liberty in Johnson Co. (CE).

Franklin's Gull: There was a first winter bird on 28 Dec at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Another, in alternate plumage, was at Ottumwa on 27 Dec (*KA).

Bonaparte's Gull: All: 45 on 2 Dec at Saylorville Res. (ABr) and one on 16 Dec at Rathbun Res. (ABr).

Ring-billed Gull: The highest counts were 4,300 on 26 Dec on Red Rock Res. and 1,400 on 29 Dec on Rathbun Res. (SJD). There were no reports between the 50 on 2 Jan at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP) and the 2 on 22 Feb at Saylorville Res. (JJD); there were 2 others on 28 Feb in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Gulls completely left all but the Mississippi R. during January and most of February.

Herring Gull: The high count was 625 on 29 Dec at Rathbun Res. (SJD). Except for the Mississippi R., there were no other reports until 4 on 22 Feb at Saylorville Res. (JJD) and 1 on 28 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP).

Thayer's Gull: Steve Freed reported birds at Lock and Dam 14 and 15 from 8 Dec through the period with a peak of 8 (3 ad., 3 juv., one second winter, and one third winter) on 16 Feb that probably represented most of the birds reported there by many observers. A very pale juv. there on 1 Jan generated much discussion (*MCD, THK). At Red Rock Res. there was one ad. on 12 Dec, one juv. on 12 and 15 Dec, 2 juv. on 17 Dec, and one ad. on 3 Jan (ABr). Elsewhere, there was one ad. on 20 Dec at Iowa City (MCD-details) and one juv. on 29 Dec at Pool 19 (SJD).

Iceland Gull: Reports of up to 3 from two locations will be referred to the Records Committee.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: one ad. on 12 and 17 Dec at Red Rock Res. (ABr), one first winter on 29 Dec at Rathbun Res. (SJD), one first winter on 15 Jan at Lock and Dam 15 (JLF), and up to 2 adults at Lock and Dam 14 and 15 on 15 Jan through the period (JLF, DGR, SMF, THK).

Glaucous Gull: At Red Rock Res, there was one juv. on 12 Dec (ABr), one ad. on 17 Dec (ABr), 2 juveniles on 26 Dec (SJD, JJD), and one ad. and one juv. on 3 Jan (ABr, TNJ). Elsewhere, there was one ad. on 21 Dec and 1 Jan at Lock and Dam 15 (MCD), one ad. on 1 Jan at Saylorville Res. (JGi), one first winter on 15 Jan through the period at Lock and Dam 15, 2 adults there on 12 Feb. (DGR), and one on the Keokuk CBC.

Great Black-backed Gull: There was one ad. on 22–26 Feb at Lock and Dam 14 (*CE, *CJC, SMF, DGR, PHA, RHA).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: By far the most was 19 on 28 Dec at Afton in Union Co. (JJD, ABr). Assuming my research is correct, reports of 8 from Lee Co. (BSc) and one on 3 Jan in Plymouth Co. (BFH) represent new county records. Other reports included 3 on 1 Dec and one on 23 Feb at the traditional Grinnell location (MPr-details), 4 on 4 Dec at Laurel in Marshall Co. (MPr-details), 2 on 27 Dec at Allerton in Wayne Co. (ABr), and 2 on 1 Jan in Boone Co. (JJD).

Mourning Dove: Several observers noted good wintering numbers around the state.

Long-eared Owl: There were 12 reports from around the state and throughout the season. The high counts were up to 6 through the period at Pleasant Creek S.R.A. in Linn Co. (BSc, MCD), 12 on 24 Dec in Wayne Co. (ABr), 6 on 3 Jan in Plymouth Co. (BFH), and 8 on 4 Jan at Hooper W.A. (JGi).

Short-eared Owls: By far the most was 12 during the period with the Long-eared Owls at Pleasant Creek S.R.A. (BSc). There were reports of one to 3 in Winneshiek, Osceola, Woodbury, Jefferson, Wayne, and Appanoose Counties.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: There were 7 reports of one bird and 2 reports of 2 birds from throughout the season. The most southerly was one on 1 and 4 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi, JGi).

Belted Kingfisher: The usual numbers wintered where there was open water, including in northern counties. The most was 4 on 11 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi).

Red-headed Woodpecker: The most reported were 4 (3 were immatures) wintering in Iowa City (JLF), 4 on 11 Jan in Clay Co. (LAS), and 6 on 24 Jan in Cedar Rapids (BSc). There were 7 other reports of one or 2. In view of concerns about the status of this species, it should probably be more consistently reported.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Of 5 reports of 6 birds, the only one following the CBC period was one on 1–25 Jan in Ann Johnson's yard near Norwalk.

Northern Flicker: A "Red-shafted" form on 23 Jan–25 Feb in Mason City associated with wintering "Yellow-shafted" forms. (CJF, RGo).

Pileated Woodpecker: A single bird on 11 Jan in Clay Co. was well northwest of its usual range (LAS); another in Hardin Co. on 10 Jan was at the edge (MPr).

Northern Shrike: With 40 reports, this was the most reported species of the season and about double the number of any of the previous six winter seasons. Unlike most winters, there was relatively even distribution around the state, including in southern counties.

Blue Jay: Interesting was a 21 Feb report from Warren Co. of a Blue Jay carrying a small brown snake (JSi).

American Crow: The roost at Ames numbered 18,500 on 20 Dec, the most ever (JJD).

Horned Lark: There were 6 reports of about 200 or more between 8 and 14 Feb with all but one from northern Iowa.

COMMON RAVEN: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: There were 12 reports of small numbers of birds from throughout the season, with several wintering at feeders. The high counts among four reports after the CBC period were 3 on 12 Jan at the State Forest Nursery in Ames (SSP, KLP) and 2 on 15 Feb at Davenport (DGR). Among recent winters, this was an average year.

Brown Creeper: The usual small numbers were reported from around the state and throughout the season.

Carolina Wren: Of 12 reports, all but 2 were in roughly the southeast quadrant of the state; the exceptions were up to 2 on 18 and 20 Dec in Sioux City (GLV, BFH) and one wintering in Mason City (CJF, PH, RGo).

Winter Wren: All: one on 1 Dec in Iowa City (JLF), one on 18 Dec in Sioux City (BFH), one on 26 Dec at Springbrook S.P. in Guthrie Co. (PHA/RIA), one on 31 Jan at Big M. (ABr, JSi), and one on 25 Jan at the Whitebreast Unit of Stephens S.F. (JSi).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: There were no reports following the CBC period.

Eastern Bluebird: The high counts reflected their distribution around the state: 11 on 29 Dec at Rathbun Res. (SJD), 12 on 2 Jan at Waterman Creek W.A. (LAS), 12 on 13 Jan at Loess Hills S.F. in Monona Co. (GLV), and 12 on 14 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE). There were seven reports after the CBC period but no reports between 13 Jan and 14 Feb.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: There was one ad. male on 28 Feb at Black Hawk County Park in the north part of Cedar Falls (*FLM).

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: There was one on 20 Dec and 2 Jan at Waterman Creek W.A. (LAS) and one on 15 Jan and 16 Feb along the Little Sioux R. in Buena Vista Co. (LAS).

Hermit Thrush: The high counts were 2 wintering at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi), 2 at Hooper W. A. (JSi, PHA/RIA), and 2 on 10 Jan at Hitchcock N.A. (MOR). Other reports

following the CBC period were of singles: 10 Jan at Pine Ridge A. in Hardin Co. (MPR-details), 13 Feb at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (GLV), and 16 and 21 Feb at Stone S.P. in Woodbury Co. (GLV, BFH).

American Robin: Other than several wintering in Sioux Center (JVD) and one on 8 Jan at Lime Creek C. A. (CJF), there were no mid-winter reports. Migrants included one on 19 Feb at Bettendorf (DGR) and 26 on 21 Feb in Buena Vista Co. (LAS); there were 100 on 27 Feb at the State Forest Nursery in Ames (KLP/SSP).

Varied Thrush: The only report was one on 17 Dec in Iowa City (RDi-photo).

Northern Mockingbird: In addition to CBC reports from Rathbun Res., Andalusia, and Green Island, there was one on 3 Dec in Warren Co. (JSi) and one on 10 Jan in Appanoose Co. in a different area than the one on the CBC (TNJ).

Brown Thrasher: A single bird stuck it out through the season in Mason City (CJF, RGo). Others included one on 4 Dec at L. Macbride S.P. (JLF) and one on 8 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE) in addition to 3 CBC reports.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: There was one on 3–7 Jan at Lime Creek C. A. (*PH, RGo). Another was reported from the Sioux City CBC while one from the Keokuk CBC was in Illinois.

Cedar Waxwing: As in recent winters, large flocks were reported, including 280 on 22 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 183 on 29 Dec at Rathbun Res. (SJD), 400 on 30 Dec in Woodbury Co. (GLV), 200 on 1 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo), and 100 on 7 Jan at another Cerro Gordo Co. location (RGo).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Outside the CBC period, the following reports: one wintering at the Hooper W.A. (JSi), 3 on 11 Dec in Allamakee Co. (FL), one on 10 Jan at Waterman Creek W.A. (LAS), one on 17 Jan at Saylorville Res. (BE), one on 1 Feb near Ames (Jim Pease side JJD), and one on 29 Feb at Davenport (DGR).

Spotted Towhee: In addition to reports from the Sac Co. and Shenandoah CBCs, there was one on 4 Jan at the Hooper W.A. (JGi).

Eastern Towhee: In addition to reports from the Andalusia and Davenport CBCs, there was one on 13 Dec at Bettendorf (DGR).

Vesper Sparrow: There were two on the Cherokee CBC (Dick Bierman).

Savannah Sparrow: There was one on the Bremer Co. CBC.

Fox Sparrow: All: 2 on 5 Dec and one on 17 Dec and 12 Jan at the State Forest Nursery in Ames (KLP, SLP), 3 on 28 Dec at Twelve Mile L. in Union Co. (SJD), and one on 28 Feb on the Lucas Co. Greenbelt trail (MPR).

Song Sparrow: There were a few reports from northern Iowa: 3 on 4 Feb at Decorah (DeC), 3 on 14 Feb near Guttenburg in Clayton Co. (DAK), and one on 16 Feb at Waterman Creek W.A. (LAS). The most was 15 on 11 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi).

Lincoln's Sparrow: There was one CBC report, from Keokuk.

Swamp Sparrow: The only report from after the CBC period was one on 11 Feb at Green Castle R.A. in Marshall Co. (PHA/RIA).

White-throated Sparrow: The usual small numbers wintered around the state.

Harris's Sparrow: With the exception of an early December report from Johnson Co., the remaining reports were of one to 3 birds from throughout the season in the western half of the state.

White-crowned Sparrow: There were no reports following the CBC period.

GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW: An immature male was at Lake Meyer Nature Center in Winneshiek Co. from 24 Jan–15 Feb (*DeC, *THK-photo, *MOv, *AMJ, m.ob.). This is Iowa's third record; the previous two were from May.

Dark-eyed Junco: "Oregon" Juncos included one wintering in Ames (WO), one

on 26 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD, JJD), and one on 31 Jan in Garnavillo (DAK).

Lapland Longspur: The highest counts were 312 on 31 Jan in Clinton Co. (PVN), 300 on 1 Feb in Worth Co. (PH), 250 on 28 Feb in Woodbury Co. (BFH), and 170 on 29 Feb in Clay Co. (LAS). The presence of snow cover produced more mid-winter reports. There were no reports from the bottom four tiers of counties.

Snow Bunting: December reports included 2 on 11 Dec in Polk Co. (JGi), 10 on 16 Dec in Hardin Co. (MPR), and 3 on 19 Dec at Hitchcock N.A. in Woodbury Co. (MOr), also the most southerly report. There were no January reports. There were reports of one to 180 birds from 1–22 Feb with the largest concentrations in north-central Iowa between 4 and 16 Feb.

Red-winged Blackbird: The last of the southbound birds were 200 on 4 Jan in Johnson Co. (JLF). There were no other reports until 18 Feb when 600 returned to Clinton Co. (PVN) and 21 Feb when 200 returned to Jasper Co. (BE).

Western Meadowlark: A single bird of 33 flushed on 14 Jan in Story Co. was identified by call (KLP-details, SLP-details). About half the remaining meadowlark reports were of Westerns, but I am unaware of any conclusive method of identifying them by plumage and no calls were noted.

Meadowlark Sp.: There were no reports following the CBC period until mid-February when migrants began returning. The peak by far was 28 on 13 Feb in Poweshiek Co. (DK).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: An immature male on 4 Jan in Iowa City missed out on a great trip to Western Mexico (RJH).

Rusty Blackbird: The last of the southbound birds were 5 on 2 Jan at Waterman Creek W.A. (LAS), 6 on 3 Jan at Westfield in Plymouth Co. (BFH), and 2 on 11 Jan at Lake Ahquabi S.P. (JSi). The next reports were 2 on 21 Feb at Decorah (DeC), a small flock on 27 Feb near Ames (JVD), and 27 on 28 Feb in Dickinson Co. (LAS).

Common Grackle: The only mid-winter report was one on 11 Jan in Mason City (CJF). Migrants were noted on 29 Feb in Tama, Sioux, and Warren Counties.

Great-tailed Grackle: There was a wintering flock of up to 100 birds around the Polk/Warren Co. border south of Des Moines (AMJ, PHA/RIA). One wonders if this is unique or if there are other such wintering groups in southwestern Iowa.

Brown-headed Cowbird: The only reports were one on 8 Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (RGo) and 9 on 10 Jan in Dallas Co. (BE).

Purple Finch: The peak count by far was 134 on 16 Dec at Hitchcock N.A. (MOR). There were 13 reports after the CBC period: the most were 12 on 11 Jan in Mason City (CJF), 34 on 15 Jan in Cherokee Co. (LAS), and 28 on 21 Feb in Buena Vista Co. (LAS). There were none reported from the southern three tiers of counties. Overall, it was an above average year.

House Finch: The peak counts were 250 on 23 Jan at Garnavillo (DAK) and 82 on 24 Jan at Spirit L. (ETH).

Common Redpoll: In the first “invasion” since 1998–1999, the first were singles on 14 Dec on the Iowa City CBC (JLF, CE), 20 Dec in Boone Co. (JNi, WO), and 26 Dec in West Des Moines (D&SS). There were

about 17 other reports; the most were up to 10 on 13 Jan through the period at Lake Meyer Nature Center (Larry Reis fide DeC), 16 on 16 Feb in Garnavillo (DAK), 31 on 21 Feb in Winneshiek Co. (DK), and 50 on 25 Feb at Sheldon in O’Brien Co. (JVD). The most southerly was one on 7 Feb at Mystic in Appanoose Co. (TNJ) and one on 18 Jan and 1 Feb at Ann Johnson’s feeder (AMJ, PHA/RIA, ABr).

HOARY REDPOLL: A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

Pine Siskin: Even though Danny Akers didn’t find one, it was an invasion year with the most reports of any winter season in at least six years. The high counts among 10 reports following the CBC period were up to 15 during Jan and Feb at Lake Meyer Nature Center (Larry Ries fide DeC), up to 12 from 24 Jan–2 Feb at Mason City (CJF), and 8 on 29 Feb at Dankwardt P. in Burlington (CJC). There were also many CBC reports including 69 in Burlington and 18 at Davenport.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Up to 4 on 12 Dec were at Hawkeye W.A. in Johnson Co. (JLF). There were 2 on 26 Feb in Cedar Valley P. in Cedar County. There has been only one previous Cedar County record. (PHA/RIA).



Lesser Black-backed Gull at Coralville Reservoir, Johnson County, 17 October 2003. Photograph by Thomas H. Kent, Iowa City.



Bald Eagle in Walnut Woods State Park, Polk County, 24 December 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Red-tailed Hawk in Pioneer Hi-Bred parking lot, Johnston, Polk County, 24 December 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



*Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis hutchinsii* on left) at Terra Lake, Johnston, Polk County, 24 December 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*



Rough-legged Hawk in Pioneer Hi-Bred research fields, Johnston, Polk County, 29 December 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Red-headed Woodpecker at Lake Ahquabi, Warren County, 28 December 2003. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Merlin (Prairie), Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines, 15 January 2004. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Merlin (Taiga), Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines, 1 January 2004. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

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Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2003–2004

Aaron Brees

The 2003–2004 Iowa Christmas Bird Count (CBC) included 44 locations (Table 1, Figure 1). This total includes one new count, Southeast Clayton County, and one returning count, Wapello County. Counts included last year, but not reporting this season, were Omaha, Worth County, Taylor County, and Siam-Hopkins.

Weather conditions varied greatly through the count period. High temperatures ranged from as low as twenty-two degrees to as high as fifty-eight. Many counts had no snow at all, while several reported up to eight inches on count day. The big lakes and rivers all had at least some open water for the count period.

The total species count this season was 131, which is about average. The total number of birds counted was 555,848. This is the third consecutive year above the 10-year average of 458,027. Keokuk (89) had the highest overall species total again. Davenport (86) had the next highest total among the Mississippi River counts. Sioux City and Shenandoah both had counts of sixty-three to lead the Missouri River. Spirit Lake (57) had the high count in the Northern Third, followed by Decorah (51), while Saylorville (72) and Cedar Rapids (70) had the high counts for the Middle Third. Rathbun (73) edged Red Rock (68) for top honors in the Southern Third. The average count this year had 13 people, 5.5 field parties, and found 54 species.



Aaron Brees

REGULAR SPECIES

Except for the usual handful of notable individual species counts, it was a very average year all around. There were no obvious themes like a big finch invasion or large numbers of lingering waterfowl. All species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer counts are shown in Table 3. You may notice that the species order has changed again to conform to the American Ornithologists' Union checklist. The main differences being that the waterfowl are now first on the list and Rock Dove is now called Rock Pigeon.

Waterfowl numbers were mixed and often strongly influenced by a large concentration at a single count site. Greater White-fronted Geese (7) were largely absent this year, with only three counts reporting the species. Snow Goose (1,414) numbers were also low again this year. All but a few were found in the western half of the state. The Ross's Goose (5) total was right at the average. A single at Cedar Rapids was notably far east. Canada Geese (112,640) were counted at record high numbers for the third consecutive year. Only two counts did not report this species. Five Mute Swans were found, although origin is certainly a question with these birds. I tend to think that the birds at Keokuk, and possibly Cedar Rapids, are wild, while those at Des Moines and Rathbun are more likely escapees. This is largely a matter of personal opinion and speculation. Twenty-five Trumpeter Swans

were reported this year, with all but two in the eastern half of the state. Only two counts found Tundra Swans this year. Green Island reported thirty-five and Davenport reported two. A swan species was reported on the Burlington count.

Except for Mallard (97,711), puddle ducks were all found in numbers well below their 10-year averages. The largest Mallard counts were from Shenandoah (14,935) and Sioux City (51,951). Northern Shoveler (69), Northern Pintail (69), and Green-winged Teal (23) were all noticeably scarce. High counts for these species were 40 shovelers at Wapello County, 56 pintail at Keokuk, and 11 Green-winged Teal at Union County.

Diving ducks were numerous, but largely confined to the Mississippi River as is usual for this group. Canvasbacks (32,868) were counted well above the 10-year average of 9,888. Of these, 32,816 were at Keokuk. Redhead (47) and Greater Scaup (7) were found below the respective 10-year averages of 80 and 35. Ring-necked Ducks (3,750) were found at more than three times the 10-year average, with most on the river at Keokuk (3,641). Lesser Scaup (1,895) were also above average, with 1,566 on Mississippi River counts. Only two sea duck species were found this year. Princeton and Davenport each reported two White-winged Scoters. Davenport also found two Long-tailed Ducks while Keokuk found one. Bufflehead (79) was relatively uncommon, with the bulk of the birds at Keokuk (66). Common Goldeneye (10,380) set an all time record high count. Ninety-two percent of these were on the Mississippi River (9,369). Common Mergansers (14,105) were also found in large numbers. Red Rock held the largest group with 8,615. Hooded Mergansers (101) were found in average numbers, with nearly half being found at Keokuk (50). A few Red-breasted Mergansers (16) were found lingering with Common Merganser flocks. The largest count was twelve at Rathbun. Ruddy Duck (50) seems to be a hit or miss species on Iowa CBCs. Counts are either in the hundreds to thousands, or they are very small as was the case this season. Thirty-eight at Keokuk was the highest single count total.

Gallinaceous birds were all found near the 10-year averages even with a lack of snow on many counts. Gray Partridge (48) were back after two years of extremely low counts. The high count came from Jamaica with eighteen. The Ring-necked Pheasant (2,138) count was slightly higher than average and they were found on all but five counts. Four of the counts that missed this species were on the Mississippi River. Single Ruffed Grouse were found at Yellow River Forest and Dubuque. Wild Turkey (1,853) continues to be common in all parts of the state. Northern Bobwhite (139) had its highest count since 1996–1997. Most were found on the Mississippi (91) and Missouri (32) river counts.

Four Pied-billed Grebes were located this year. Two were at Cedar Rapids, while singles were at Des Moines and Keokuk. American White Pelicans (15) were found at just above the 10-year average of 14. All were found on large reservoir or river counts. Double-crested Cormorant (53) numbers were above the average of 33 due to counts of twenty at both Davenport and Sioux City. Great Blue Herons (130) were above average for the third straight year. Mississippi River counts (113) provided most of the birds, with the high count coming from Clinton (46).

Bald Eagles (3,172) were found at an all-time high. The previous high count was 2,695 in 2000–2001. For the third year in a row, Northern Harriers (110) were found above the 10-year average of 84. Accipiters were all found in above average numbers. Sharp-shinned (62) and Cooper's (78) hawks were widely distributed, while four of the five Northern Goshawks were found on Middle Third counts. Red-shouldered Hawk (9) reports were more widely scattered than usual with at least one found in every part of the state except the

Northern Third. Red-tailed Hawks (1,414) were common as usual, but slightly below the average of 1,612. It was a good year for Rough-legged Hawk (155) with all but eight counts reporting this species. Golden Eagle (3) had been missed the last two years, so it was good to see that species reported again. Yellow River Forest found two, while a single was at Burlington. American Kestrels (759) were abundant and widespread this year. Only one count missed the species, and the Andalusia count found 100. Five Merlins were reported, which is about average. However, this total clearly pales in comparison to the congregation found in Des Moines later in the winter. All Merlins identified to subspecies were thought to be *richardsonii*.

American Coot (65) is a boom or bust species on Christmas counts and this year was definitely a bust. The only counts reporting double digits were Keokuk (26) and Davenport (18). Shorebirds were mixed this year. Killdeer (21) were well below the average of 55, while Wilson's Snipe (49) were above the average of 40. Gull numbers were generally good. Ring-billed Gull (41, 331) was most widely distributed on Mississippi River counts, but the high total was a big evening roost at Red Rock (17,900). The Herring Gull (2,446) count was a little below average, but the species was still widely reported. Davenport had the high count with 743. It was the second best count season ever for Thayer's Gull (8). All were found on the Mississippi except for the high count of three at Red Rock. Two Glaucous Gulls were also found at Red Rock and a single was at the Keokuk count.

Rock Pigeon (9,092) numbers were down after a strong year last year. Eurasian Collared-Doves (41) were reported from scattered locations across the state. Afton retains its prestigious title as the collared-dove capital of Iowa, with nineteen found there on the Union County count. It was an exceptional year for Mourning Doves (5,278). This is the second consecutive 5,000+ count for this species which has a 3,091 10-year average. Eastern Screech-Owl (105) and Barred Owl (114) were both slightly above their averages. The Great Horned Owl (160) total was the lowest in over 15 years, although it was still found on 76% of counts. Long-eared Owls (52) were down from last year's high of 99, but were still well above the average of 33. Green Island (17) had the highest count. It was a poor year for Short-eared Owls (2). Singles were found at Westfield and Sioux City. Eight Northern Saw-whet Owls were found this year, with both Boone and Amana reporting two. Belted Kingfisher (151) numbers were above the 10-year average of 115. Interestingly, the high count of 15 came from up north in Decorah.

Every woodpecker species was reported above its 10-year average this season. Red-headed Woodpeckers (305) were numerous and widely reported, being found on over 80% of counts. Red-bellied (1,946) and Downy (2,700) woodpeckers were found on every count. Both species declined slightly from last year's extremely high numbers. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (30) stayed north in the highest numbers since 1992–1993. Hairy Woodpeckers (594) were found on all but one count and in very similar numbers to last year. The Northern Flicker (908) count is probably the largest ever and definitely the highest in the past fifteen years. Like Hairy, flicker was missed by only one count. Pileated Woodpeckers (92) were found in similarly large numbers, passing last year's excellent count by one. Noteworthy single count totals were sixteen at Yellow River Forest and fifteen at Keokuk.

It was an excellent year for Northern Shrikes (41). The 10-year average is 25 for this eruptive species. Northern Shrikes were reported in all parts of the state, including as far south as Shenandoah and Rathbun Reservoir. Reports of single shrike species from Shenandoah and Sac County may well have been Northerns. A single Loggerhead Shrike was reported without details from the Grinnell count. This report might best be considered

as a shrike species given its location and the large number of Northern Shrikes in the state this winter. Blue Jay (5,440) numbers were well above the average of 4,020. American Crows (50,858) were recorded at the lowest numbers since 1989–1990. It is difficult to know if this is significant or just a variation in how the large roosts were that were counted this year. Horned Lark (2,149) numbers were well below the 10-year average of 3,187. A lack of snow on many counts hampered locating this species. Black-capped Chickadees (6,130) were unexpectedly scarce this year after back-to-back 7,000+ counts. Tufted Titmouse (734) numbers were also down from an average of 804. The predicted Red-breasted Nuthatch (97) invasion failed to materialize. This species had consistently erupted every other year for the last ten years, with counts over 300 during each invasion. The White-breasted Nuthatch (2,857) total was well above the average of 2,393 for the second year in a row. After two good years, Brown Creeper (210) numbers were low. By far the highest single count total was 36 at Ames. Both wrens were found in good numbers. Carolina Wrens (85) were found in exactly the same numbers as last year, and above the average of 55. Winter Wren (22) numbers were average after last year's huge total of 49. One of the more puzzling totals this year was the Golden-crowned Kinglet (25) count. The average for this species is 117.

It was a very good count season for the thrush family. Eastern Bluebird (458) numbers were far over the average of 167. A big surprise was the record Hermit Thrush (22) total. Two-thirds were found on Mississippi River counts, while the single count high of four was from Ames. American Robin (1,743) was found very near to the average of 1,793.

Northern Mockingbirds (4) were found on three counts, with Green Island reporting two. Gray Catbirds (4) were found on four scattered counts. This is another very good count coming off last years amazing total of six catbirds. Three Brown Thrashers were reported, which is about average. Eurasian Starling (52,460) numbers were above the average of 47,759. Only Neal Smith NWR was fortunate enough to not record this species. Cedar Waxwings (5,543) seemed to be everywhere. This appears to the record count for the species and is more than twice the 10-year average. It was also an exceptional year for Yellow-rumped Warblers (60). The high single count totals were nine at Yellow River Forest and ten at Rathbun Reservoir.

In general, it was a poor year for sparrows. Only two Eastern Towhees were reported, both on Mississippi River counts. Two Spotted Towhees were found in western Iowa. One of these was reported as "Rufous-sided" but the included description identified it as a Spotted. A towhee species at Red Rock slipped away before it could be identified. American Tree Sparrow (7,423) numbers were very low. The average for the species is 13,671. The Fox Sparrow (18) total was just off the average of 19. Union County provided the high count of five. Song Sparrows (546) and Swamp Sparrows (103) were both found well below their respective averages of 776 and 143. Seventy-six percent of Songs and 82% of Swamps were found on Mississippi River counts. The bright spot among the sparrows was the White-throated (531) count. This is nearly twice the 10-year average of 267. Harris's Sparrows (39) were extremely scarce and may have set a new record low total. The average for the species is 215. White-crowned Sparrows (46) were also hard to find and below the average of 71. Dark-eyed Juncos (13,750) were common and widespread as always, but the total was still below average. With the lack of snow on many counts, Lapland Longspurs (276) and Snow Buntings (162) were difficult to locate and recorded in well below average numbers. The Northern Cardinal (7,142) count was the highest in over ten years.

Icterid results were a mix of near average counts and some very low totals. Red-winged Blackbird (5,924) numbers were a little above the average of 5,064. Seventy-seven percent were found on Mississippi River counts. Meadowlarks (349) were common this year, being found well above the average of 248. Interestingly, not a single meadowlark was reported from the Mississippi River counts. Rusty Blackbirds (29) were well off the average of 108; however they were reported from all parts of the state. A single Brewer's Blackbird was found on the Saylorville count. The poorest showing among the icterids was surely Common Grackle (81). This is the lowest count in at least fifteen years and is far below the average of 521. Brown-headed Cowbird (1,035) was found above the average of 938. Fifty-five percent were found on Mississippi River counts, while 44% were from the Central Third.

It was another lackluster year for finches. Purple Finches (978) were the one highlight. This was only the third time in the last fifteen years that the Purple Finch count surpassed 900. North Linn reported the most with an impressive total of 106. House Finch (2,896) numbers were slightly above average following two down years. A large Common Redpoll (18) invasion failed to materialize, despite reports of huge numbers on the move in Minnesota. The high count of seven came from Sioux City, while smaller numbers were reported from all areas but the Southern Third. Pine Siskin (125) numbers were below average, but a great improvement over last year's nine. Eighty percent were found on Mississippi River counts, while the high count by far came from Burlington (69). American Goldfinches (4,333) dropped below the 10-year average of 4,957.

After several years of declining numbers, the House Sparrow (28,790) count jumped back above the average of 28,108. The Eurasian Tree Sparrow (718) count was the second best ever, falling just short of the 723 recorded in 2000–2001. As expected, all were found on Mississippi River counts except for two at Iowa City. Burlington, Keokuk, and West Mercer County all reported impressive triple digit totals.

NOTABLE MISSES

Several species that are found with some regularity on Iowa CBCs were missed this year. These include Black Scoter (5 of last 10 years), Common Loon (4 of last 5 years), Peregrine Falcon (5 of last 10 years, see below), Mew Gull (4 of last 10 years), Marsh Wren (6 of last 10 years), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (8 of last 10 years), Varied Thrush (4 of last 10 years), Common Yellowthroat (5 of last 10 years), Chipping Sparrow (4 of last 10 years, see below), Yellow-headed Blackbird (4 of last 10 years), Great-tailed Grackle (5 of last 10 years), Red Crossbill (6 of last 10 years), and White-winged Crossbill (4 of last 10 years).

UNCOMMON SPECIES

It was not a great count season for rarities, but several uncommon species were found. A single Horned Grebe lingered at Spirit Lake. This species had been found four of the last ten years. Two Black-crowned Night-Herons were found on the Cedar Rapids count. This species seems to be becoming an annual winterer there, but it has been since the 1999–2000 winter that one had been found on an Iowa CBC. Several uncommon gulls were found this season. A single first-year Bonaparte's Gull was circling the last of the open water on the Saylorville count. A juvenile Iceland Gull was documented on the Keokuk count and will be reviewed by the Records Committee. This is a potential second Iowa CBC record. A staked out adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Red Rock remained for that count. This is the fifth CBC record and the first in eight years. Although not found on count day, a

count-week Black-billed Magpie at Westfield was certainly notable. The passerine highlights of the count season were undoubtedly two Bohemian Waxwings, reported from opposite corners of the state. One was at Sioux City while the other was actually across the border on the Illinois portion of the Keokuk count. The most recent count record had been from the 1995–1996 season. Uncommon winter sparrows found this year included a Field Sparrow at Boone County, a Savannah Sparrow at Bremer County, and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Keokuk. The most unusual were two Vesper Sparrows documented on the Cherokee count.

One of the most interesting sightings submitted this year was a male Cinnamon Teal, documented on the Wisconsin side of the Yellow River Forest count. The identification of this bird was never in doubt. However, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology Records Committee rejected the record due to questions of origin (Robert Domagalski, pers. com.). Close-up photos of the bird's legs show what appears to be a clipped halux. This is a standard technique used by aviculturists to mark captive waterfowl. Following the Wisconsin committee's decision, this bird will not be included in the official record.

Most reports of uncommon species included the proper documentation or details. As is unfortunately the case every year, several notable (and likely correct) sightings were submitted with no supporting evidence and are not included in the official count totals. This year these included Peregrine Falcon, Brewer's Blackbird, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, and a potential first Iowa CBC record Dickcissel.

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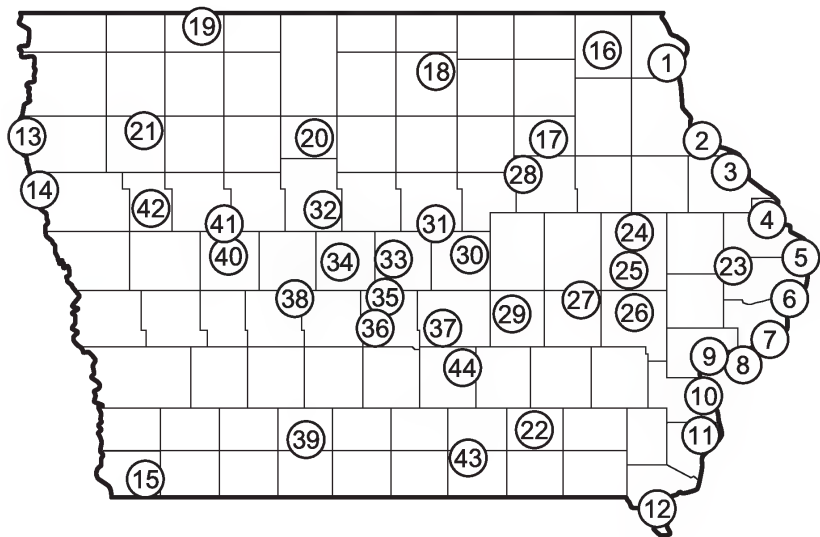


Figure 1. Locations of Iowa Christmas Bird Counts, 2003–2004.

Table 1. Site Data for 2003–2004 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Obs	Field Pts	Hr	Miles Car	Ft	Owling Hr	Mi	Feeder Pt	Hr	Temp L	H	Snow Depth	Wind
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River Forest	3-Jan	62	4928	9	6	46	297	15	4	26	0	0	19	24	0	NW 5-15
2. Southeast Clayton County	2-Jan	40	1629	3	2	13.25	129	5.5	0	0	1	4	27	42	0	S 0-35
3. Dubuque	3-Jan	53	6075	22	na	43.5	320.6	22.7	0	0	2	4	24	30	3	NW 12
4. Green Island	21-Dec	73	6542	12	6	42.5	91	8	6.5	70.5	2	0.5	15	32	0	0-5
5. Clinton	18-Dec	71	15053	9	4	37.5	301	4.5	6	76	0	0	27	32	2	NW 5-15
6. Princeton	23-Dec	64	8205	3	3	23.75	201	4	2.5	38	0	0	29	35	0	NW 5-20
7. Davenport	14-Dec	86	31113	17	7	63	520	15.5	8.75	73	9	14	26	33	1	W 0-5
8. Andalusia	5-Jan	61	4612	7	4	35	345	6.5	2	23	0	0	12	16	8	NW 10-15
9. Muscatine	4-Jan	62	5130	10	4	26.25	316	7.75	6	71	8	12	22	26	8	NNE 10-20
10. West Mercer County	19-Dec	54	5809	9	4	37.5	263	6.25	4	39	0	0	25	29	3	NW 15-25
11. Burlington	20-Dec	70	12641	12	5	48	263	42	2	15	1	8	13	38	2	S 0-10
12. Keokuk	22-Dec	89	70843	9	8	49	641	16	1.5	15	0	0	34	40	0	NW 0-10
MISSOURI RIVER																
13. Westfield	3-Jan	45	4177	23	8	84.7	430.6	16.25	1	5.25	2	7	15	22	0	NW 10-25
14. Sioux City	20-Dec	63	69810	24	9	54.5	347	22	1.5	0.5	3	8	22	44	0	S 0-22
15. Shenandoah	27-Dec	63	20580	25	7	54.5	449	28	0.25	0.5	13	60	49	61	0	SSW 5-36
NORTHERN THIRD																
16. Decorah	26-Dec	51	5269	11	4	29	274	12	1	5	1	4	19	44	1	S 0-10
17. Bremer County	20-Dec	42	1870	5	3	20	264	7	0	0	0	0	9	30	2	S 5-10
18. Mason City	20-Dec	45	10347	14	6	46	300.5	16	1.5	10	9	36	13	28	2	S 10-20
19. Spirit Lake	14-Dec	57	7532	6	3	32	249	1.5	0.5	0	29	145	26	27	8	SE 15-20
20. Humboldt County	28-Dec	21	332	3	1	na	75	5	0	0	0	0	15	48	na	W 10-15
21. Cherokee	14-Dec	48	2245	6	3	20	312	2	2	16	2	6	24	27	7	S 10-17

Table 1. Site Data for 2003–2004 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Field Pts	Hr	Miles Car	Ft	Owling Hr	Mi	Feeder Pt	Hr	Temp L	H	Snow Depth	Wind
MIDDLETHIRD															
22. Wapello County	27-Dec	35	3991	4	2	na	9	3	1	0	0	43	55	0	SW 20-25
23. Lost Nation	15-Dec	57	5550	12	5	38	366	2.75	30	1	2	25	38	3	SE 5-10
24. North Linn	3-Jan	45	5408	9	5	39.5	433	4	45.5	0	0	22	30	0	NW 10-20
25. Cedar Rapids	20-Dec	70	15606	15	9	46	450	5.5	39	3	7	14	30	0	NW 0-10
26. Iowa City	14-Dec	61	1309	38	11	62.5	398	1.5	10	19	57.5	25	28	0	S 4-8
27. Amiana	27-Dec	36	1172	11	3	21	34	3	8	0	0	35	46	0	E 10-17
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	21-Dec	46	16092	7	5	32	341	0	0	2	6	24	38	0	S 5-15
29. Grinnell	3-Jan	25	1183	8	2	10	55	0	0	2	12	22	29	0	N 5-18
30. Marshalltown	17-Dec	3	6060	18	5	26	302	0	0	3	20	15	35	1.5	S na
31. Eldora-Union	17-Dec	39	1800	5	3	22	145	0.33	0	2	na	11	33	2	na 0-10
32. Southeast Webster	28-Dec	41	1255	8	3	15	146	0.5	5	0	0	20	26	1	NW 5-15
33. Ames	20-Dec	56	25681	33	18	78.5	450.5	3.25	42	8	8	19	34	6	S 5-17
34. Boone County	3-Jan	54	8214	32	15	82	600	6.75	67	10	23.5	18	25	0	N 7-18
35. Saylorville Reservoir	14-Dec	72	17764	27	8	67.5	530	3.5	35	0	0	27	33	3	S 0-10
36. Des Moines	21-Dec	61	25185	13	6	42	295	2	2	2	7	36	49	1	SW 10-20
37. Neal Smith NWR	27-Dec	19	124	10	7	28	35	0	0	0	0	25	57	0	SSW 15-25
38. Jamaica	16-Dec	61	21168	9	4	34	323	2	20	0	0	20	32	na	N 23-37
39. Union County	28-Dec	63	18554	4	2	19.5	245	0.5	11	0	0	23	42	0	SSW 5-20
40. Carroll County	21-Dec	44	6341	6	3	16	225	0	0	5	10	20	45	4	SW 10-30
41. Sac County	3-Jan	35	2195	11	6	20	120	0	0	5	12	18	22	0	N 8-12
42. Ida County	27-Dec	43	2059	12	5	36	254	1	2	4	6	25	58	1	S 15-35
SOUTHERN THIRD															
43. Rathbun Reservoir	20-Dec	73	18952	32	10	64.5	653	4.5	27	4	20	16	40	0	SSW 0-10
44. Red Rock Reservoir	21-Dec	68	43723	10	6	40.5	390	1.5	6	0	0	35	49	0	SW 15-30
TOTAL			555848												

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2003–2004

Location	Sn Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Mu Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma	No Sh	No Pi
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest		13			3			18	580		1
2. Southeast Clayton County					1				3		
3. Dubuque		422						4	590		
4. Green Island		659							219		
5. Clinton		1032				3		21	641		
6. Princeton		880	4					1	452		
7. Davenport		4270			3	7	2	3	2041	12	
8. Andalusia		432				1			63		
9. Muscatine		369				5		1	548	1	
10. W. Mercer Co.		1540				11			17		
11. Burlington		4548				11			153		
12. Keokuk		1327		1		50	11	19	1661		56
Subtotal	0	15492	4	1	7	88	13	67	6968	13	57
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield		50									
14. Sioux City	23	7940			1	4	1		51951		1
15. Shenandoah	1106	113				2	16		14935		4
Subtotal	1129	8103	0	0	1	6	17	0	66886	0	5
NORTHERN THIRD											
16. Decorah		535						1	166		
17. Bremer County		67									
18. Mason City		3014	2						1411		
19. Spirit Lake		3576				9			530		
20. Humboldt Co.		110									
21. Cherokee		119							19		
Subtotal	0	7421	2	0	0	9	0	1	2126	0	0
MIDDLE THIRD											
22. Wapello County		457							100	40	
23. Lost Nation		522	4						7		
24. North Linn		583						1	132		
25. Cedar Rapids		3235		1	2			1	3345		
26. Iowa City	1	2971						2	453		
27. Amana		35	3						2		
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		4507						7	3250		
29. Grinnell		582							72		
30. Marshalltown	4	3625							80		
31. Eldora-Union		330									
32. Southeast Webster		50	6						10		
33. Ames		960							66		
34. Boone County		106							40		
35. Saylorville Reservoir	1	369					27				
36. Des Moines	3	18507	1	1		21	3		1999		2
37. Neal Smith NWR											
38. Jamaica	239	15075				81		3	2107		
39. Union County	8	9696				2	3	6	6376		4
40. Carroll County	1	2750							375	14	
41. Sac County		170							272		
42. Ida County		337	2						88		
Subtotal	257	64867	16	2	2	104	33	20	18774	54	6
SOUTHERN THIRD											
43. Rathbun Reservoir	25	7224		2		81	4		857	2	
44. Red Rock Reservoir	3	9533	3			2		4	2100		1
Subtotal	28	16757	3	2	0	83	4	4	2957	2	1
TOTAL	1414	112640	25	5	10	290	67	92	97711	69	69

Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Gr Sc	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	He Me	Co Me	R-b Me	Ru Du	Gr Pa
	1		3		36		5		58		1	
		1							9			
							2		14			
			3		505	1	2511		2579			
	35	1	23		4		2800	4	27			
4	11		38	1	295	2	783		24		1	
	2						35		28		1	
2	1						11		2			
					26	6	34		32			
	32816	36	3641	2	700	66	3168	50	504		1	
6	32866	38	3708	3	1566	75	9369	54	783	2	38	
									4060		42	0
							7					
2		1	3		3	3	143		5			
11			3		2							
13	0	1	6	0	5	3	150	0	5	0	0	0
												5
3	1	4	2		1	1	71					11
									2			
3	1	4	2	0	1	1	71	0	2	0	0	16
			3		1		77	23	2			
									21			
1												
		1										
									2			5
			1	1	11		185		445	1	8	
		3			7		29	3	23			
			5		1			1				18
				3			26	1	8			3
1	0	4	9	4	20	0	317	28	501	1	8	26
			25		300		21	5	922	12		
	1				3		452	14	8615	1		
0	1	0	25	0	303	0	473	19	9537	13	0	0
23	32868	47	3750	7	1895	79	10380	101	14105	16	50	42

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2003–2004

Location	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Am Wh Pe	Do Cr Co	Gr Bl He	Ba Éa	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	No Go
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest	1	82					192	5	1		
2. Southeast Clayton County	15	10					33				
3. Dubuque	2	45					194		1	4	
4. Green Island	5	22	13			2	215	8	1	2	
5. Clinton	13	126	1			46	157	10	1	2	
6. Princeton	4	142	16		2		139	1	1	1	
7. Davenport	15	10	1		20	6	138	3	2	9	
8. Andalusia							105		1	1	
9. Muscatine		6				10	45		1		
10. W. Mercer Co.		88	46			16	280	3		1	
11. Burlington	9	15	5			22	395	2	3	3	
12. Keokuk		40	9	6	1	11	316	3	3	4	
Subtotal	64	586	91	6	23	113	2209	35	15	27	0
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield	47	30					15	3	1	2	
14. Sioux City	54	196		1	20		13	2	3	1	1
15. Shenandoah	22	6	32			3	61	5	2	1	
Subtotal	123	232	32	1	20	3	89	10	6	4	1
NORTHERN THIRD											
16. Decorah	58	206				2	63	3	3	1	
17. Bremer County	35	11				1	12	1	1	2	
18. Mason City	75	76					3		1		
19. Spirit Lake	388	17					4		1		
20. Humboldt Co.	1	17					5				
21. Cherokee	104	27					4		1		
Subtotal	661	354	0	0	0	3	91	4	7	3	0
MIDDLE THIRD											
22. Wapello County							27				
23. Lost Nation	121	42					30	9	1	1	
24. North Linn	34	51					51		2	1	
25. Cedar Rapids	52	69			1		50	1	2	9	
26. Iowa City	98	69			1		55	5	2	3	
27. Amana	9	23					16		4		
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	16	50				4	7	1	1	2	
29. Grinnell										1	
30. Marshalltown	48	48					17	1		1	
31. Eldora-Union	120	32			2		22			1	
32. Southeast Webster	7	21					7			1	
33. Ames	293	10				2	5	1		4	2
34. Boone County	11	57					80		1	2	
35. Saylorville Reservoir	144	11		3			11	2	4	4	
36. Des Moines	4	10		2	2		26		2	1	
37. Neal Smith NWR	20	4								1	
38. Jamaica	182	69	11			2	10		2	1	1
39. Union County	9	24					1	9	5	5	1
40. Carroll County	43						6		2		
41. Sac County	7					1	17				
42. Ida County	56	12					1	1	1	2	
Subtotal	1274	602	11	5	6	9	439	30	29	40	4
SOUTHERN THIRD											
43. Rathbun Reservoir	9	54	5		3	2	62	18	2	2	
44. Red Rock Reservoir	7	25		3			282	13	3	2	
Subtotal	16	79	5	3	3	2	344	31	5	4	0
TOTAL	2138	1853	139	15	52	130	3172	110	62	78	5

Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Am Ke	Me	Am Co	Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Th Gu	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do
1	51 6 51 72 48 19 64 17 8 22 32 41	5 2 14 12 3 2 1 1 3 6	7 13 21 14 23 23 48 100 6 17 30 22		1 1 1 18 2 26	1 3 4 1	1 8 1 10 5 6	65 548 315 69 351 6388 750 107 373 1695 5908	16 18 249 3 65 743 2 19 3 35 106	1 1 1	201 56 130 260 275 76 837 31 31 54 522 407	
2	431	50	324	0	49	11	32	16569	1259	5	2880	0
0	37 7 41	27 5 35	6 6 35	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	155 502 182	1 4
0	85	32	47	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	839	5
1	55 14 24 1 3 9	2 4 3 1 1 3	12 3 4 3 2 4		1 6		1 9		1		215 117 309 50 30 182	6 6
1	106	14	28	1	7	1	9	0	1	0	903	12
4	6 44 39 74 70 8 23	7 5 3 3 1 5	11 36 40 31 18 6 7	2	2 1	5		3000 94 211 2 1	108 2 6		158 140 204 919 161 22 33	4
1	14 26 23 6 63 58 63 35 18 33 43 13 8 11	6 6 2 6 1 2 1 3	10 8 6 9 13 17 22		6	1		7 42 3	16 13 4		211 61 28 352 194 1078 167	1
5	678	49	310	2	9	7	6	3357	149	0	4325	24
1	40 74	2 8	25 25	1		1	2	3505 17900	457 580		77 68	
1	114	10	50	1	0	1	2	21405	1037	3	145	0
9	1414	155	759	5	65	21	49	41331	2446	8	9092	41

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2003–2004

Location	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	No S-w Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest	15	8	4	4		1	9	2	68	1	68
2. Southeast Clayton County	121		1	4			1		23		24
3. Dubuque	71		1	1			4	4	23	1	82
4. Green Island	127	6	14	6	15		8	16	94	3	95
5. Clinton	159	7	2	1	1		1	4	52	1	93
6. Princeton	351	5	6				3	8	27	1	44
7. Davenport	798	4	9	7			8	6	112	2	169
8. Andalusia	121	3	3	1			2	9	36	1	33
9. Muscatine	343	1	4	3	1		4	3	39	2	67
10. W. Mercer Co.	489	1	3				4	5	39		40
11. Burlington	163	2	2	3			9	8	66	2	50
12. Keokuk	116	1	4	3			3	34	100	2	104
Subtotal	2874	38	53	33	17	1	56	99	679	16	869
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield		1	4		7			4	35		45
14. Sioux City	8	3	2	1			1		48	2	67
15. Shenandoah	93		8	7			5	1	36		53
Subtotal	101	4	14	8	7	0	6	5	119	2	165
NORTHERN THIRD											
16. Decorah	24	3	1	2			15	1	57		40
17. Bremer County	38			1			2		11		22
18. Mason City	46	1	9	2	5	1	1	2	26		81
19. Spirit Lake	8	3	3				1	1	26		75
20. Humboldt Co.	1								1		4
21. Cherokee	9	2	1	1			1	2	13		15
Subtotal	126	9	14	6	5	1	20	6	134	0	237
MIDDLE THIRD											
22. Wapello County	7							1	7		15
23. Lost Nation	132	1	4	6	1		4	17	52	1	69
24. North Linn	83	6	1	5			2	6	39		56
25. Cedar Rapids	452	5	4	11	1		10	3	67	1	161
26. Iowa City	443		1	6	3	1	7	22	109	2	161
27. Amana	44		1	1		2		6	17		21
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	174		2	5	1	1	2		21		33
29. Grinnell	7			1				1	6		10
30. Marshalltown	69							9	19		28
31. Eldora-Union	3		1				3	13	16		45
32. Southeast Webster	11	1					4	10	9	1	12
33. Ames	175	1	6	4			7	3	140		169
34. Boone County	24	13	9	4		2	7	54	141	3	169
35. Saylorville Reservoir	213	19	25	7	1		2	10	136		163
36. Des Moines	115		1	3			6	5	61		66
37. Neal Smith NWR									6		13
38. Jamaica	132	1			1		5	17	24	1	33
39. Union County	15		5		3			7	9	1	9
40. Carroll County	11		1		2		3	1	14		19
41. Sac County								1	11		40
42. Ida County		1	2		6				11	1	24
Subtotal	2110	48	63	53	19	6	62	186	915	11	1316
SOUTHERN THIRD											
43. Rathbun Reservoir	13	5	12	9	2		4	8	41	1	52
44. Red Rock Reservoir	54	1	4	5	2		3	1	58		61
Subtotal	67	6	16	14	4	0	7	9	99	1	113
TOTAL	5278	105	160	114	52	8	151	305	1946	30	2700

Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	No Sh	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr
19	8	16	2	84	498	8	174	16	5	79	4	1
2	4		1	48	84	30	107	11		37	1	
19	16	5		114	308		221	80	1	95	4	1
28	48	7	3	245	346	1	300	66	1	129	10	2
12	28	4		240	131	360	209	30		85	9	5
19	6	1	1	124	82	2	106	12		48	9	
16	26	1		269	942	15	482	39	7	173	12	9
11	18	4		74	84	242	127	22		49	1	
17	9	1	3	79	22	285	130	19		56	1	2
14	12	2		55	45	135	124	9	1	55	4	4
20	35	5	1	110	128	97	45	21	2	26	1	5
12	58	15		443	12000		197	67		68	4	23
189	268	61	11	1885	14668	1175	2222	392	17	900	60	52
6	49		2	73	144		87	3		65	2	
8	57			12	296	65	135		5	88	5	2
17	22		1	122	53	7	69	2	2	84	5	
31	128	0	3	207	493	72	291	5	7	237	12	2
16	5	9	1	143	300		155	29	6	78	4	
4	1	1	1	29	175		49	1		15	2	
20	12		1	176	2793		163		1	47	4	1
26	2			62	17	61	223		2	108	11	
	1			6	20		13			8		
3	11		1	53	28	204	22		1	32	3	
69	32	10	4	469	3333	265	625	30	10	288	24	1
3	9			21	25		13	4		16		
17	25	5	2	193	344	39	128	23	16	50	17	2
13	20	1		129	157	1	162	11	1	54	2	
24	23	6	1	230	911	22	319	37	2	132	4	11
21	68	1	2	211	632	144	283	60	3	105	7	10
3	1	2		37	58		32			11		
9	4	2	3	45	5798		136			127		1
2				20	82		16			9		
7	5			97	125		35	2	2	26	3	
5	3		1	74	83	52	38	1		36		
2	2			20	162	2	53			16	2	
43	19		2	243	18500	41	547	6	6	264	36	1
68	35	3	2	206	1540	6	372	67	4	172	8	1
29	61		1	315	886		278	26	9	107	2	1
15	38	1		90	1500		138	18		94	5	1
1	1		2	7	11		3	16		3		
5	25		2	134	73	66	65	5		27	1	1
3	16		2	54	285	3	18	3	2	14		
4	18			56	290	154	16	2	2	21	8	
10	6			37	25	42	21			30		1
6	4			27	142	60	27		3	33	14	
290	383	21	20	2246	31629	632	2700	281	50	1347	109	30
7	51		3	455	187	5	131	16	13	24	1	
8	46			178	548		161	10		61	4	
15	97	0	3	633	735	5	292	26	13	85	5	0
594	908	92	41	5440	50858	2149	6130	734	97	2857	210	85

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2003–2004

Location	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Gr Ca	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ye Ru Wa	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest	3		3				614	255	9	201	
2. Southeast Clayton County			4		5		205	107		192	
3. Dubuque			8		20		893	133		109	
4. Green Island	4		87	3	14		310	386	5	170	
5. Clinton	1	3	32	1	1		1980	30	4	741	
6. Princeton			2	1			1340	2		135	
7. Davenport	1	3	2	1	22	1	3839	213		870	1
8. Andalusia	1	1		3			355	15	1	182	
9. Muscatine			3	2			955	2	4	121	
10. W. Mercer Co.		1		2	1		629	20		219	2
11. Burlington		2	53		20	1	1033	116	2	255	1
12. Keokuk		2	41	1	204		2019	524	6	397	4
Subtotal	10	12	235	14	287	2	14172	1803	31	3592	8
MISSOURI RIVER											
13. Westfield			37		308		1285	511		237	
14. Sioux City			9		44		5976	476	1	125	
15. Shenandoah	4		4		22	1	1311	16		103	
Subtotal	4	0	50	0	374	1	8572	1003	1	465	0
NORTHERN THIRD											
16. Decorah			3		2		1597	98	4	169	
17. Bremer County							460			132	
18. Mason City							525	61		167	
19. Spirit Lake							547	45		147	
20. Humboldt Co.							54				
21. Cherokee			12		13		546	8		4	
Subtotal	0	0	15	0	15	0	3729	212	4	619	0
MIDDLE THIRD											
22. Wapello County			15		1		69	265		6	
23. Lost Nation	2		1	3			1243	7		123	
24. North Linn					2		1376	301		59	
25. Cedar Rapids	2		8		9		1051	56	2	384	
26. Iowa City			17	1	15		2268	397		678	
27. Amana							50			75	
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo					1		444	31		88	4
29. Grinnell							2			30	
30. Marshalltown					5		534	72		67	
31. Eldora-Union							167	55		73	
32. Southeast Webster					2		561	16	1	16	
33. Ames	1		6	4	104		1299	62		39	
34. Boone County		2	5		25		1655	295	5	83	
35. Saylorville Reservoir	1	7	44		469		8165	279	6	347	
36. Des Moines			19		79		896	53		32	1
37. Neal Smith NWR										8	
38. Jamaica	1				17		1011	45		190	
39. Union County		2	3		267		577	111	4	38	5
40. Carroll County							1084	165		26	
41. Sac County	1					1	617			22	
42. Ida County					20		359	1	3	22	
Subtotal	8	11	118	8	1016	1	23428	2211	21	2406	10
SOUTHERN THIRD											
43. Rathbun Reservoir		1	26		34		1402	205	10	157	
44. Red Rock Reservoir		1	14		8		1157	109	1	184	0
Subtotal	0	2	40	0	42	0	2559	314	11	341	0
TOTAL	22	25	458	22	1734	4	52460	5543	68	7423	18

So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	La Lo	Sn Bu	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	me sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr
1		1			328			99	171			
2	1			1	126			54				
14	4	4			310			264	1			
79	28	3		2	529	1		244	125		4	
43	6				331	62	6	180	321			
135	9	75		3	279	1		72	2			
16		11		2	1007	1		662	3001		9	1
8	1	20		1	350	32		227	402			1
17	3	16			412	9	2	270				
14	6	32		6	328			181	150			
85	26	35	3	13	905			137	28			
414	84	197	3	28	851			443	334			3
3		1			257			16	1		6	
7		22	6	1	254			47				2
10	0	23	6	1	258			157	81	22		
3					769	0	0	220	82	22	6	2
1	5	1			173			123	1			
1		2	3		141			69	18	1		1
5			5		341	30	48	127				
1					241	5		28	4	3	2	6
11	5	3	10	0	5	160	12	6		4		
1					160	56		14				
2	3	5			1061	86	60	367	23	8	2	7
4		12		5	1			23				1
15		19			403	8		264	40			2
22		73		11	165			236				
5					608			496	40	40		1
					757			521	113			3
					70			23				3
					190			117		8		
					142			49				
					157		15	138				2
		2	1		85			71	1	12		
					14	30		36		2		2
9	1	33	3		473			261	11	49		2
2		10	5		693			197	150			38
32	4	93	2	1	545	25		444	714	121	3	2
4	2	37			359			97	25			
3		5			4	21	67	1	8	3	1	5
1					252			34	10	12		
			3		125			31	1	4	1	1
			6		122		12	34				
2	1				34			41	137	1		
102	11	289	20	17	130	84	94	3227	1250	252	5	62
5	2	6			409			187	20	55		
4	1	13			426			308	14	12	3	5
9	3	19	0	0	835	0	0	495	34	67	3	5
546	103	531	39	46	13750	276	162	7142	5924	349	29	81

Table 2e. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2003–2004

Location	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Co Re	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER								
1. Yellow River Forest		33	18			161	589	
2. Southeast Clayton County		2	60			67	156	
3. Dubuque		31	190	1		147	866	
4. Green Island	2	74	103			134	665	
5. Clinton	392	21	32		7	107	1161	1
6. Princeton		1	36			31	318	2
7. Davenport	26		183	3	18	264	1843	
8. Andalusia	132	5	34	3	1	19	493	1
9. Muscatine	2	21	120		6	134	753	21
10. W. Mercer Co.		10	15			108	352	200
11. Burlington		33	187		69	181	397	312
12. Keokuk	16	33	66			235	690	179
Subtotal	570	264	1044	7	101	1588	8283	716
MISSOURI RIVER								
13. Westfield		6	27	1	1	154	428	
14. Sioux City		20	92	7		74	705	
15. Shenandoah	3	1	26			119	1237	
Subtotal	3	27	145	8	1	347	2370	0
NORTHERN THIRD								
16. Decorah		11	81	1	13	155	614	
17. Bremer County			32			39	344	
18. Mason City		64	124			77	534	
19. Spirit Lake		14	151			103	895	
20. Humboldt Co.						3	44	
21. Cherokee		66	22			45	395	
Subtotal	0	155	410	1	13	422	2826	0
MIDDLE THIRD								
22. Wapello County		6	12			31	26	
23. Lost Nation	32	12	45			67	1160	
24. North Linn	15	106	84			98	1053	
25. Cedar Rapids		25	154		1	157	2095	
26. Iowa City		61	147	1	4	208	1276	2
27. Amana	335		125			57	70	
28. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		5	55			24	542	
29. Grinnell		8	8			49	35	
30. Marshalltown		1	6			28	514	
31. Eldora-Union		6	46			40	261	
32. Southeast Webster		1	3			4	120	
33. Ames		39	88	1	1	130	1078	
34. Boone County		72	62			292	1145	
35. Saylorville Reservoir	63	42	91			191	1444	
36. Des Moines		1	29			82	376	
37. Neal Smith NWR								
38. Jamaica		10	38			102	756	
39. Union County	14	48	127			34	350	
40. Carroll County	1	20	90			46	571	
41. Sac County		16	5		1	64	575	
42. Ida County		2	17			30	349	
Subtotal	460	481	1232	2	7	1734	13796	2
SOUTHERN THIRD								
43. Rathbun Reservoir	2	35	36		3	120	1150	
44. Red Rock Reservoir		16	29			122	365	
Subtotal	2	51	65	0	3	242	1515	0
TOTAL	1035	978	2896	18	125	4333	28790	718

Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts — 2003–2004

Species	Counts
Tundra Swan	Davenport (2), Green Island (35)
swan species	Burlington (1)
Greater White-fronted Goose	Des Moines (1), Jamaica (4), Union Co. (2)
Ross's Goose	Sioux City (1), Shenandoah (3), Cedar Rapids (1)
White-winged Scoter	Princeton (2), Davenport (2)
Long-tailed Duck	Keokuk (1), Davenport (2)
Ruffed Grouse	Yellow River Forest (1), Dubuque (1)
Pied-billed Grebe	Keokuk (1), Des Moines (1), Cedar Rapids (2)
Horned Grebe	Spirit Lake (1)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Cedar Rapids (2)
Golden Eagle	Burlington (1), Yellow River Forest (2)
Bonaparte's Gull	Saylorville (1)
Glaucous Gull	Keokuk (1), Red Rock (2)
Iceland Gull	Keokuk (1)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Red Rock (1)
Short-eared Owl	Westfield (1), Mason City (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Grinnell (1)
shrike species	Sac Co. (1), Shenandoah (1)
Bohemian Waxwing	Keokuk (1), Sioux City (1)
Northern Mockingbird	Rathbun (1), Andalusia (1), Green Island (2)
Brown Thrasher	Burlington (1), Grinnell (1), Eldora-Union (1)
Eastern Towhee	Andalusia (1), Davenport (1)
Spotted Towhee	Sac Co. (1), Shenandoah (1)
towhee species	Red Rock (1)
Field Sparrow	Boone Co. (1)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Keokuk (1)
Vesper Sparrow	Cherokee (2)
Savannah Sparrow	Bremer Co. (1)
Brewer's Blackbird	Saylorville (1)
blackbird species	Union Co. (18)

Range Expansion of the Eurasian Collared-Dove in Iowa

Robert I. Cecil

Every birder has committed an identification error, but there is perhaps only one instance in recent history — that of the Eurasian Collared-Dove — where the entire birding and ornithological communities erred *en masse*. The problem stemmed from the fact that the very similar Ringed Turtle-Dove was widely kept by bird fanciers and was either a frequent escapee, or was deliberately freed — the latter possibly in the hope of establishing wild populations, or, to reduce inventory because it is a prolific breeder with little value to collectors. Indeed, Iowa observers have reported Ringed Turtle-Doves over the years, although a sustainable population never developed.

The identification error came to light in southern Florida, where populations of *Streptopelia* doves began to burgeon during the 1980s. In the early part of the decade, these birds, with their pale beige coloration and distinctive narrow black collar, were dismissed as Ringed Turtle-Doves, a domesticated “species” of uncertain origin, but possibly arising from the African Collared-Dove. Because it was domestic, its presence generated about as much early interest among birders and ornithologists as its relative, the Rock Pigeon. The status of the Eurasian Collared-Dove as a permanent, established species was confirmed with its acceptance by the American Birding Association in 1992 (DeBenedictis 1994). This same year, the Ringed Turtle-Dove was removed from the North American checklist, in part due to the corrected identification of the Florida birds, and in part due to the recognition that very small introduced populations in Florida, California, and elsewhere had consistently disappeared.

Identification of Eurasian Collared-Dove is pretty straightforward except in the unlikely event that Ringed Turtle-Dove is also present. It is pale gray overall with a narrow black collar. Since it frequently sits on wires, it is often conspicuous when present. Compared to a Mourning Dove, in addition to being much paler, it is heavier bodied, larger overall, and has a square tail. Compared to a Ringed Turtle-Dove, which is about the size of a Mourning Dove, the Eurasian Collared-Dove is darker and has gray, not white, undertail coverts.

With the exception of its first years in the United States, the origin and spread of the Eurasian Collared-Dove is well documented, and summarized by Smith (1987). Its original European range was limited to a fairly small area around the Black and Aegean Seas until the late Nineteenth Century, when it appeared on the east side of the Adriatic Sea in what is now Albania and Yugoslavia. This modest expansion presaged one of the one of the most aggressive range extensions in ornithological history. The breakout started about 1930; by the middle of the decade it had reached Romania and Hungary, and by the mid 1940s it was in West Germany. By 1977, as many as 100,000 pairs were in The Netherlands. It first bred in Britain in 1955 where it increased rapidly; ten years later its population was about 50,000 pairs. As of the late 1980s, it had perhaps saturated northern and western Europe, but was still moving eastward into the former Soviet Union and southwestward to Morocco. Smith further notes that dispersal occurs primarily in the spring, and that birds often appear several hundred miles from their usual nesting range. In Europe, the species favors sub-



Figure 1. Iowa's first Eurasian Collared-Dove nest and its two young photographed in Fenton in Kossuth County on 17 July 2001 by Thomas H. Kent, Iowa City.

urbs, small towns, and agricultural settlements over urban areas, open countryside, and forests, similar to its habitat requirements in the New World.

Its introduction in the New World began in the Bahamas in the early 1970s, when a local pet dealer acquired ten pairs of what were incorrectly thought to be Ringed Turtle-Doves and began breeding them. In 1974, some of the birds escaped. Shortly thereafter, the remaining birds and perhaps others that were acquired from the dealer were deliberately released, possibly because the species is much more skittish than the Ringed Turtle-Dove and is not well suited to captivity. From this beginning, the population grew rapidly and by the 1980s, tens of thousands of birds occurred on just the main Bahaman island of New Providence. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the species began its spread to nearby islands. This spread was to a great extent natural but may have had some limited human assistance. Soon, it was abundant on the tiny island of North Bimini, about 80 kilometers from the Florida coast (Smith 1987).

Information about the arrival and early spread of the Eurasian Collared-Dove in Florida is murky due to the aforementioned propensity of birders to

assume they were seeing Ringed Turtle-Doves. It is generally assumed that a large majority, if not all, of the pioneering birds arrived under their own power, but it was not until the mid-1980s that White (1986) and Smith (1987) independently concluded that birds, which had been dismissed as Ringed Turtle-Doves, were actually a new North American species.

With characteristic speed, the Eurasian Collared-Dove spread rapidly up both coasts of the Florida peninsula. Christmas Bird Count reports indicated that it was encountered on 4% of the state's counts in 1986, 14% in 1988, 31% in 1990, 58% in 1992, 77% in 1994, and 82% in 1996 (Romagosa and Labisky 2000). It also began to move into adjoining states. Anticipating its arrival in Iowa, Kent and Dinsmore (1996) stated that it was undergoing a range expansion and could reach Iowa in a few years, noting that it had already been reported in Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. On 29 August 1997, Iowa's first Eurasian Collared-Dove was found. Fritz Block, a visitor to Grinnell in Poweshiek County from Allentown, Pennsylvania, heard the birds while playing golf. Others in the area reported that they had been hearing them since April of that year. Up to five birds were reported throughout the fall season. An additional report involved a dead bird found in Marshall County that was given to the Marshall County Conservation Board (Kent 1998). For the next year, no additional locations were discovered, but as many as ten birds were found in Grinnell on 3 December 1998 (Cecil 1999). This small population has persisted in varying numbers to the present time.

The state's next report was of one bird from Osceola County in the fall of 1998 (Kent 1999). During September 1999, up to eight were at Montgomery in Cerro Gordo County

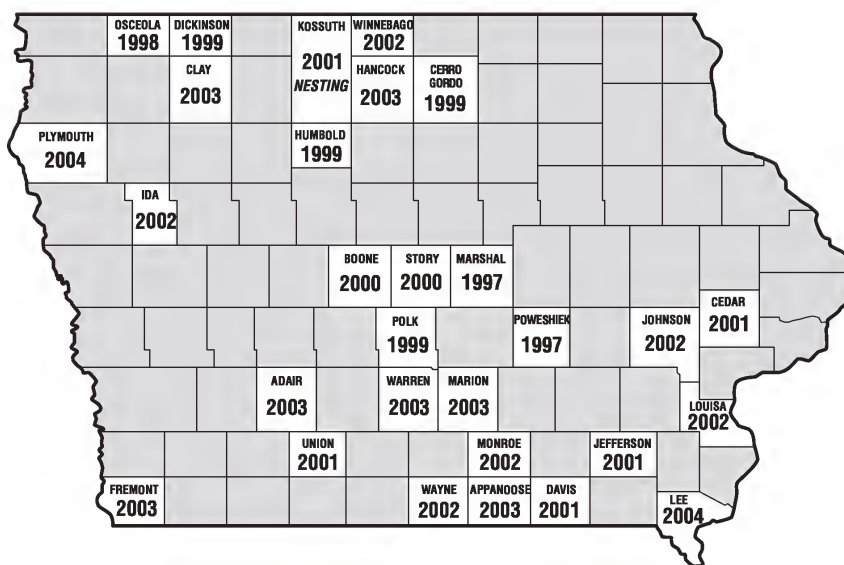


Figure 2. Eurasian Collared-Dove expansion in Iowa with first known nesting in Kossuth County in 2001.

(Kenne 2000), six were reported from Rutland in Humboldt County on 31 December 1999, and another was at Ames on 4 February 2000 (Cecil and Johnson 2000). On 17 July 2001, Iowa’s first nest, containing two young, was found and photographed in Fenton in Kossuth County (Dinsmore 2001) (Figure 1). Statewide, numbers grew. For example, forty birds were found on four 2002–2003 Christmas Bird Counts, of which 26 were found in Union County (Brees 2003), the state’s highest count to date. At the present time, the species has been reported from 29 of the state’s 99 counties (Figure 2). Curiously, the reports have tended to appear in a broad diagonal band stretching from the southeast to the northwest part of the state.

As Iowans prepare for the arrival of a new exotic invasive species, the inevitable questions arise: will they become common and will they become a problem? Regarding the former, they will probably become common. They have already demonstrated the ability to maintain viable Iowa outposts despite our winters, and have established new colonies. In southern states, they have become locally abundant. An interesting corollary question is whether the species will experience the “boom” then “bust” cycle of many exotics — this will remain to be seen although it does not appear to have been observed in previous colonizations. Regarding potential adverse effects on native species, the information is limited. Some observers have noted them associating with but not displacing Mourning Doves, while Romagosa and Labisky (2000) considered them in Florida to be behaviorally dominant over other columbids as well as unrelated species. Another concern is that the Eurasian Collared-Dove has been documented as being infected with *Trichomonas gallinae*, perhaps the most important disease agent of North America’s Mourning Dove (Romagosa and Labisky 2000). The biggest problem in assessing adverse impacts is the lack of time for study — in terms of speed, the Eurasian Collared-Dove’s occupation of North America will be one for the record books.

To put some species on one's list, they have to be chased. This will probably not be the case with the Eurasian Collared-Dove. Iowa observers will simply need a little patience. Just look out the window from time to time — a Eurasian Collared-Dove will be coming soon to a telephone wire near you

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Birding on the Edge: Western Lyon County

Douglas C. Harr

Not many Iowa birders have had the opportunity to explore the state's far northwestern fringe. Iowa's border with South Dakota is, however, a good region in which to spend a little discovery time. The Big Sioux River valley in Lyon County offers some picturesque scenery, with scattered prairies, bur oak savannas, and oak-cedar woodlands. These "Little Loess Hills" really are an extension of one of Iowa's most notable landforms, although a bit more gentle and approachable than the steeper slopes ranging from Sioux City south to Missouri.

Sometimes called "the Gateway to the Black Hills" by local residents, the region's witty moniker has a little more truth to it than might be first apparent. Lying within what geologists refer to as the Northwest Iowa Plains (Prior 1991), the overall landscape often gives visitors a feeling of entering the Dakotas. Additionally, native flora and fauna of western Lyon County tend to become somewhat transitional, with species normally expected further west showing up in these hills along the Big Sioux valley. This article will briefly describe some of the birding opportunities centered on a string of public lands, both natural and historic, flanking the Big Sioux River (Figure 1).

Any visit to Lyon County should start with a visit to Gitchie Manitou State Preserve (1), one of Iowa's oldest and most unique preserves (Figure 2). Formerly within the Iowa State Park system and now managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Bureau, the 121-acre outpost boasts a surprising mix of interesting fauna and flora. The preserve is accessed by a parking lot on its west boundary with Co. Hwy K10 (Apple Avenue). A one-half mile walk down a former entrance road leads to a three-fourths mile looped hiking trail. The trail takes visitors through riparian woodlands and across a wonderful mixed-grass prairie featuring prickly pear cactus and other western flora. Interesting birds to look for include Swainson's

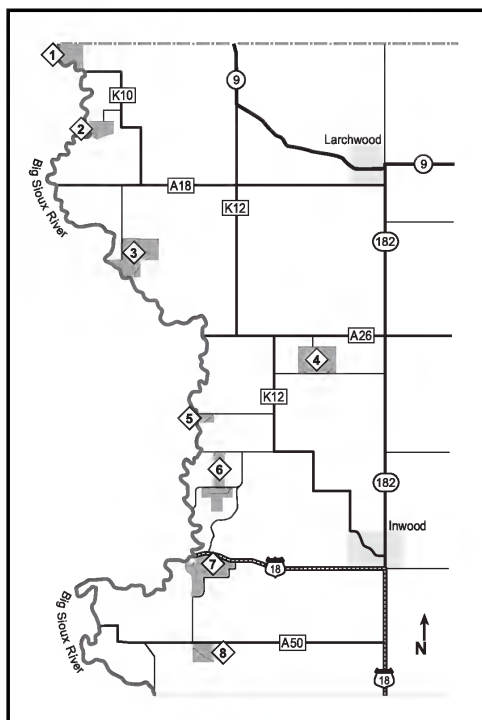


Figure 1. Western Lyon County birding areas (1) Gitchie Manitou State Preserve; (2) Blood Run Historic Site; (3) Hidden Bridge-Peterson Prairie Wildlife Area; (4) Lake Pahoja County Park; Big Sioux River Wildlife Area: (5) Olson Tract, (6) Nelson-Lee Tract, (7) Kroger Tract; (8) Blankespoor Wildlife Area.



Figure 2. Gitchie Manitou State Preserve. Photograph by Douglas C. Harr.



Figure 3. Blood Run Historic Site. Photograph by Douglas C. Harr.

Hawk (nested here for some time in the 1980s), American Woodcock, both cuckoo species, an occasional intergrade (red x yellow) Northern Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Western Kingbird, Blue Grosbeak, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Lark Bunting. Clay-colored Sparrows have been observed during the breeding season (Jackson et al. 1996) and must be considered potential nesters. Yellow-breasted Chats nest in nearby Sioux Falls, SD, and remain a possibility for discovery here. Sharp-tailed Grouse have been reported from nearby private lands a mile southeast of Gitchie Manitou; they were encountered and reported by an experienced, knowledgeable hunter. While visiting Gitchie Manitou, don't miss viewing the 1.8 billion year-old Sioux Quartzite formations. Among some of the oldest exposed rock in North America, this stone once was quarried here and nearby, and was used for many historic buildings in Sioux Falls, Sioux City, and other smaller communities in the region. The preserve is unique because it has multiple dedications as a geological, archeological, historical, and botanical state preserve (Herzberg and Pearson 2001).

Two miles south of Gitchie Manitou is the Blood Run Historic Site (2), another worthwhile stop both for birds and ancient history (Figure 3). Owned by the State Historical Society of Iowa and managed by the Lyon County Conservation Board, the site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In fact, Blood Run history is so interesting it might even distract visiting birders. Home to the Oneota, Ioway, and Omaha people from about A.D. 900 to 1720, as many as 3,000 people may have inhabited this small area of river valley at the cultural peak. Although many burial mounds were long ago de-

stroyed by farming, more than 80 remain, making Blood Run one of Iowa's most important but least known archeological treasures. Access to Blood Run is a gravel road west from Apple Avenue (K10) (look for a directional sign).

From the parking area and visitor kiosk, trails lead through the mounds area, across remnant mixed-grass prairie, and down through overgrown savanna to the river's flood-

plain, crossing Blood Run Creek (waterproof footwear needed). Birds to look for here include many of the same varieties listed previously for Gitchie Manitou. In scattered riparian woods along the edge of the Big Sioux River, Green Herons and Orchard Orioles are common nesters, along with extra-limital Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. A Mountain Bluebird, reported to the author by local birders, was never verified but remains a good possibility for this western Iowa outpost, and the species has been recorded a few miles to the south. A Loggerhead Shrike nest in a plum thicket along the area's entrance road was active for many years, and Blood Run's brushy habitat component likely still offers good locations for shrikes. The dry prairies on west-facing slopes or hilltops provide good habitat for Western Meadowlark and Lark Sparrow. It appears that Blood Run might provide a probable location for rare Lark Bunting, a species more common just an hour west into South Dakota, as well as Burrowing Owls, which have nested periodically at the nearby town of Larchwood. Documented observations of either species by visiting birders are welcomed by Iowa DNR, Lyon County Conservation Board, and the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. This historic site normally is open only during daylight hours and visitors should check the regulations sign for any changes.

Continuing downstream, the next large tract of public land encountered is Hidden Bridge-Peterson Prairie Wildlife Area (3), owned by the Lyon County Conservation Board. Access is from Apple Avenue (K10), 1.5 miles south of its intersection with Co. Hwy A18. Apple Avenue dead-ends on the wildlife area, and a parking area is provided. An abandoned road may be followed down to the river terrace, but there is no formal trail system, so birders are left to range these big prairie hills at will. A Black-billed Magpie once was observed from a high prairie ridge, and what appeared to be possible abandoned magpie nests later were reported in a couple of cottonwood trees (Harr 1986). Given periodic reports of magpies in the Sioux City vicinity, this species could be found here at any time. Other species of interest here include nesting Loggerhead Shrikes, one of which the author, Harold White, and Lee and Nancy Schoenewe once observed carrying a male Eastern Bluebird. A Mountain Bluebird was recorded here in 1996 (Kent 1996), and this remains good habitat for the possibility of future observations. The wonderful prairies and scattered brush at Hidden Bridge appeal to Upland Sandpipers, Bobolinks, Field Sparrows, and Blue Grosbeaks, among others. Fall raptor migration viewing also can be excellent along the area's wind-swept ridges, and Northern Harriers nested on Peterson Prairie in 2003 (Dinsmore 2003).

To continue downstream, visitors must backtrack to Co. Hwy A18, then three miles east to K12 (Beech Avenue) and continue south on this paved road. If an extended visit is planned to the area (probable, given Lyon County's distance from almost anywhere), a good place to camp is Lake Pahoja County Park (4), just east of K12 on A26. Entrance and



Figure 4. Western Kingbird. Photograph by Douglas C. Harr.

camping fees are charged. The 282-acre park, with an artificial lake, has excellent camping facilities and some camping cabins. Cabins are almost continuously filled in summer, however, so reservations often are needed months in advance. The park itself can offer suitable birding all year round, and it's a good place to see a wide variety of migrating waterfowl each fall and spring. Both Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls have been observed on park grasslands south of the lake, although no nests have been located. An interesting side note — the name "Pahoja" (pronounced pa-HO-ya) is an Oneota word translated as "dirty snow."

Continuing two miles south on K12 from the intersection of K12 and A26, turn west onto 200th Street. After traveling 1.25 miles, the road turns into an unmaintained dirt road that descends a steep hill to a parking lot on an 80-acre parcel of DNR's Big Sioux River Wildlife Area. Do *not* attempt driving this road if it has rained within the previous three days or any time if ruts appear particularly deep! Leave vehicles at the top of the hill and to the side of the road. Anyone stuck downhill will find the nearest landowner very unfriendly about offering assistance! Known as the Olson Tract (5), this state land is mostly dense woodland on steep hills. It is situated in the midst of the largest contiguous forest on Iowa's side of the middle Big Sioux River. Birdlife consists of mostly woodland varieties typically found across the rest of Iowa. The site is rich in nesting Wild Turkey, Eastern Wood-Pewee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wood Thrush, a number of vireos, Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Eastern Towhee. Spotted Towhees occasionally may be found in migration. While Spotted Towhees are not known to nest here, discovery of the species, or Spotted x Eastern hybrids, remains distinctly possible (Silcock 2001). Although not hosting many unusual species, this site offers someone trying to enlarge their Lyon County list a considerable opportunity to add several deep woods species.

It's again necessary to backtrack to Hwy K12. Continue south one mile, then west three-fourths mile on 210th Street, south one mile on Beech Ave. (K12), then west again one-half mile on 220th. Lands on both sides of the road are part of the Big Sioux River Wildlife Area, Nelson-Lee Tract (6). This is an area of mixed oak-cedar woodlands, oak savanna, remnant prairies and agricultural fields, a deeply cutting stream, and a 3-acre impoundment, thus providing a variety of habitats for birds. No trail system exists, so birders again are on their own to explore the 337 acres of public land. Turkeys abound, and this area formerly was home to a number of Northern Bobwhite, at the northwestern limits of their Iowa range before the national population decline of recent years. Other unusual species (assumed nesting) for northwestern Iowa are American Woodcock and Whip-poor-will. The author has found that, from some of the open hilltop ridges, the Nelson tract is a wonderful place to view raptors in fall migration each September and October. Some of the raptors observed personally here include Bald and Golden Eagles, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, and Prairie Falcon, along with more common species. Eastern Bluebirds are very abundant around this public area, nesting in hollow trees along creek bottoms and in the many houses placed on posts along roadsides in the vicinity. Blue Grosbeaks and Western Kingbirds may be commonly observed perched on roadside utility lines (Figure 4). The portion of land north of 220th Street (Lee Tract) was recently purchased through DNR's new State Wildlife Grants program and has not been fully explored for its birding opportunities. That makes it a ripe area for an energetic birder to explore and perhaps secure some new Lyon County records.

For the next stop, reverse direction and return to Beech Avenue, continuing south as it zigzags its way to U.S. Hwy 18. Immediately south of U.S. 18 at this point is situated the

Kroger Tract (7), at 454 acres the largest component of the Big Sioux Wildlife Area and the largest parcel of public timber on Iowa's side of the Big Sioux. Parking is available near the boat ramp access, just west along Hwy 18. One also can travel one-half mile east, turn south on Able Blvd., and follow a winding road uphill to a couple of parking areas located at the edge of hilltop fields and oak woodland. The first signed parking lot encountered is a good place to access much of the area. An old access road, now closed to vehicles, serves as a good walking trail. It descends through oak woodlands, ending up in abandoned weedy field on the river's floodplain terrace. Many birds found on this area are the same species as those listed previously for the Olson Tract.

Final stop on our western Lyon County tour is the Lyon County Conservation Board-owned Blankespoor Wildlife Area (8). From the previously-described Kroger Tract, travel 1.25 miles south on Ashley Ave. to the intersection with Co. Hwy A50. Blankespoor Wildlife Area and the public parking lot are located immediately south of this "T" intersection. Habitat is a now-familiar mix of oak savanna, oak-cedar woodlands, small prairie remnants, and farm fields, with a couple of small impoundments. Acquired in the mid-1990s, this area has yet to be fully explored by birders and offers another great opportunity for some unexpected finds.

Public lands along the Big Sioux River, and farther downstream in Sioux County, form a "string of pearls" along this scenic valley. It has long been a dream of the Department of Natural Resources, local county conservation boards, and South Dakota's Department of Game Fish and Parks, to create a major green belt between Sioux City and Sioux Falls. With respective populations of approximately 85,000 and 125,000 residents, and another 40,000 or so between the larger metropolitan centers, the river has become a major target for both outdoor recreation and rural housing developments. Should the latter predominate, this interesting ecological transition area between eastern and western United States could suffer. Some dedicated birding and new records of unusual Iowa species might help in the struggle to keep the Big Sioux River corridor in a relatively natural condition.

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Winter Ovenbird at Iowa City

Thomas H. Kent



Figure 1. Ovenbird, 17 December 2002.
Photograph by Thomas H. Kent, Iowa City.

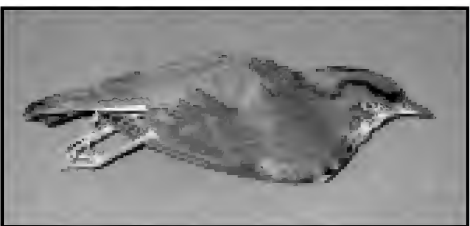


Figure 2. Ovenbird specimen, 6 February 2003. Photograph by Thomas H. Kent, Iowa City.

On or before 12 November 2002, Steve Elliott and Jan McDonald first noticed an Ovenbird in their backyard bird sanctuary. Except for the period from 18 to 27 December, the bird was present until 25 January 2003. Jim Scheib and Dick Tetrault observed the bird on the Iowa City Christmas Bird Count on 15 December, and I saw and photographed it on 17 December (Figure 1). The location is about one block from the Iowa River at the bottom of an undeveloped, heavily wooded ravine. Steve and Jan maintain a small pool of open water, feeders, ground feed, and brush piles for a wide variety of winter birds. The warbler-sized Ovenbird was easily identified by its orange crown, dark lateral crown stripes, white eye-ring, streaked under parts, and yellow-green upper parts.

On 24 February 2004, I was at the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History doing some research when Dave Brenzel brought a bird for me to identify and photograph — an Ovenbird labeled “Norval Tucker, 2-6-03, his back yard, IC” (Figure 2). It was found dead that day or the day before by Tucker in his back yard on Prairie du Chein Road in Iowa City, which is south of Interstate 80 and one mile as the crow flies from the Elliott/McDonald location. Tucker had not seen this bird before finding it dead.

There are three previous winter records of Ovenbird in Iowa: (1) George E. Crossley saw a bird in his yard at Farley in Dubuque County on 9 and 28 December 1957 (Brown 1958); (2) John E. Butler saw a bird beneath his feeders at Coralville in Johnson County from 10 December 1988 to 10 January 1989

(Butler 1989, photos); and (3) Steve Van Note and Harlow Hadow saw a bird walking on the Coe College campus for about 15 minutes on the Cedar Rapids Christmas Bird Count on 15 December 2001 (Brees 2002; Cecil 2002; Van Note documentation).

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Board Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

18 April 2004

The IOU board meeting was held at the Iowa Audubon Office at Saylorville Lake. President Richard Tetrault called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M. In attendance were Richard Tetrault; Sharon Stilwell, vice president; Sue Spieker, secretary; Rita Goranson, treasurer; board members Bob Cecil, John Rutenbeck, Linda Zaletel, Ric Zarwell. IOU members present were Aaron Brees, Karen Disbrow, Dave Edwards, Tammy Hertzelt, Jay Gilliam, Ann Johnson, Hank Zaletel, and Betty Zarwell.

Secretary's Report. Defer approval of minutes until May business meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Rita Goranson reported that the Birdathon and Book royalty accounts have not been touched in ten years. This year the financial situation has improved. (See attached treasurer's report.) Ric Zarwell moved and Dick Tetrault seconded the motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Registrar's Report. Mailing the membership lists was discussed. It could be sent out with *IBL* but then libraries and institutions would also receive a copy. Putting the list on a protected IOU site also was discussed. Sue Spieker moved that the mailing list should be sent to the membership separately and not in *IBL*. It was seconded by Sharon Stilwell. The motion carried.

A letter was sent to Life Membership members encouraging contributions and over \$700 was contributed. Membership has increased over the past year. Attached is the membership summary from the registrar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publication Committee. Tom Kent's report on publications was published in *IOU News*. *Iowa Bird Life* now has color covers. There was a memo on budgeting.

Records Committee. Ann Johnson, secretary, reports that they will be finished with 2003 records soon. The web site report is current. They are receiving reports by on-line documentation. There was a discussion about the checklist order and reviewing subspecies reports. Matt Kenne replaces Paul Hertzelt on the Records Committee.

Web Site. Ann Johnson, web master, encouraged use of a calendar to show an active organization (Pat Schlarbaum is now adding DNR events.). The password is goldfinch. IOU has received at least nine new memberships from the web. More people are taking advantage of on-line payment every year. New areas are a photo gallery and mystery bird quiz. Nearly half of the participants used the on-line meeting registration. The web site is featuring IOU member profiles. Field report data are being entered on-line (meshes with IBA monitoring). Ann asked if an officers section would be helpful.

Member profiles will be created on the web site in a secure manner (not available to the public). These profiles will allow members to report field reports on-line as well as to provide other opportunities for the organization in the future. Hopefully, this will ease the work of the field reports editors and encourage more reporting. Thanks to Ann and all her talents for constantly improving and fine tuning the IOU web page.

Membership Committee. Ric Zarwell resigned as chair and John Rutenbeck was appointed to succeed him. Boat trips on the Mississippi River during the May meeting were discussed. Prizes will be given to members who recruit new memberships! Prizes will be given in IOU merchandize. Suggestions were made for updating the membership brochure. These will be forwarded to Ann Johnson. Dave Edwards was saluted for his diligence as registrar in keeping and acquiring new members. Staffing the IOU sales booth at the spring meeting was discussed. Planning for the Pelican Festival has begun. The festival will be held 12 September at Saylorville. The committee is looking for camps across Iowa where birding sessions might be included.

Conservation Committee. Ric Zarwell resigned because of a possible conflict of interest with this committee. Jay Gilliam will replace him as chair. The last meeting was in the summer of 2003. A proposal from an anonymous donor was submitted for the Important Bird Areas (IBA) but the proposal was not accepted.

IOU Birding Trip Committee. Ric Zarwell will chair this committee. The committee has been looking at liability insurance for extended site trips that would cover the IOU and board. The committee members are Ross Silcock, Bob Cecil, Ric Zarwell, Kay Niyo, and Jenny Vickers. They will develop policies and procedures for trips in Iowa, the Midwest, the United States, and overseas. Ric described a model that the Montana Audubon uses for their trips. He would like to see profits generated by trips placed in the conservation fund for future use. Dick Tetrault asked Ric to sign up for the general liability insurance before the spring meeting. The committee will need to look at the liability costs for extended site trips.

Budget and Finance Committee. President Dick Tetrault welcomed treasurer-elect Tammy Hertzell. The old Budget and Finance Committee was dissolved. Appointments to the new Budget and Finance Committee were Rita Goranson with Tammy Hertzell as chair. Advisors to the Budget and Finance Committee are Linda Zaletel and Ann Johnson. A newly revised budget will be presented at the May meeting for approval. Sharon Stilwell moved and Ric Zarwell seconded the motion to accept the appointments. The motion carried.

Spring and Fall Meeting. With three weeks before the spring meeting, 61 people have signed up to attend. On-line registration has been helpful. Sharon gets a report and update as people sign up. Registration online will be used for future meetings. It was mentioned that boat trips have been added and that information is on the web and on the listserv. Members need to sign up for these trips early.

The fall meeting will be handled by the Iowa City Bird club. Sessions will be held at Wickiup Hill Natural Area, Linn County's nature center (near Cedar Rapids). Sunday morning birding and count tally will be at Johnson County Conservation Center at F. W. Kent Park (near Iowa City).

Scholarships and Education. Sharon Stilwell wrote to seven high school principals in the Lansing area and there was no interest in a scholarship to attend the meeting. Ric Zarwell will check with an area school too. Based on her experiences with the Iowa Association of Naturalists, Linda Zaletel said that it is very hard to attract high school students.

Pelican and Lansing Festival. The Pelican Festival attracted over 4,500 people. Many stopped and chatted with IOU members. Several pieces of merchandise were sold.

Rivers and Bluffs Fall Birding Festival drew over 220 people from 12 states. Most of the promotion was handled through e-mail. The festival will be on 12–14 November 2004. There is a possibility that Pete Larson, who helped discover “Sue” the dinosaur, could be present and would give a program on dinosaurs and birds.

Bequests. Dick Tetrault would like a list of people who have left bequests to the IOU. It was felt that we should continue to honor people who have left bequests and encourage people to think about planned giving in the future. Hank Zaletel will look in the archives and *IBLs* for this information.

OLD BUSINESS

Publications Committee. Ann Johnson reported that in the summer of 2003, the Publications Committee was allocated \$3,000 in additional funds to be used as needed. The intent was that this money would be available for the current year or subsequent years. An additional \$2,000 was raised from an appeal for directed donations. Discussion with the treasurer indicated that \$300 of that extra money was expended in 2003. With the current fiscal structure of the organization, the remaining funds are no longer earmarked for the Publications Committee without specific board approval. The Publications Committee therefore requested a resolution from the board that these funds should still be available to the committee for publications. Ann Johnson asked that the Publication Committee fund be carried over from last year. Rita Goranson moved and Sharon Stilwell seconded the motion to carry over these funds for the Publications Committee. The motion carried. A proposed budget for 2004 will be presented at the May business meeting for approval.

New Business. President Dick Tetrault welcomed new treasurer-elect Tammy Hertzell and new board member-elect Jay Gilliam.

New patches and denim shirts in small and medium sizes are available for purchase.

Adjournment. President Dick Tetrault moved and Rita Goranson seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried. The board meeting was adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Linda R.F. Zaletel (for Sue Spieker, secretary)

TREASURER'S REPORT — RITA GORANSON, TREASURER

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD 1
JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2003

SUPPORT AND REVENUES

SUPPORT (CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS)

Publications Fund Contributions	\$1,900.00	
Pioneer Matching Fund	280.00	
Communications Contributions	320.00	
Listserv Contributions	25.00	
Unspecified Contributions	1,817.70	
Memorial, Leonard Larson	5,000.00	
Memorial, Ann Barker	10,000.00	
Total Contributions and Gifts		\$19,342.70

REVENUES

Goldfinch Membership	3,640.00	
Bluebird Membership	2,517.00	
Oriole Membership	1,100.00	
Egret Membership	225.00	
Osprey Membership	1,200.00	
Family Membership	496.00	
Student Membership	108.00	
Life Membership	500.00	
Membership	797.00	
Institutional Membership	380.00	
Total Membership Revenue		10,963.00

Paypal Activity

Sales	50.50	
Memberships	1,309.00	
Hendricksen Donation Commun.	770.00	
Publications Fund (Note 1)	100.00	
Total Paypal Activity		2,229.50

Sales

IOU Materials	1,508.12	
Ad Sales	165.00	
Listserv	123.33	
Used Books Sales	235.00	
Print Sales	298.00	
Web Sales	332.96	
Total Sales Revenue		2,662.41

Meeting Income	1,536.33	
Total Meeting Income		1,536.33

Interest Income and CDs		
Checking Account	20.42	
CD #3 Interest	606.70	
CD #2 Interest	143.53	
CD #1 Interest (Note 2)	148.53	
Total Income		918.95
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE		\$37,652.89
EXPENSES		
Publications Committee		
<i>Iowa Bird Life</i>	9,900.00	
IOU Newsletter	2,268.41	
Web Site	608.50	
Total Publications		12,776.91
Officer Expense		
President	—	
Registrar	504.53	
Total Officer Expense		504.53
Iowa Bird Line	408.72	
IOU Material Expense	3,387.11	
Paypal Fees	78.22	
Membership Refund	20.00	
Membership Committee	297.25	
Records Committee	9.50	
Fall Meeting Expense	1,046.50	
Special Project	1,060.00	
Bonding Cost	225.00	
Line Item Adjustment	428.27	
Total		6,960.57
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$20,242.01
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENSES		\$17,410.88

Note 1: Total Publication Fund contributions were \$2,000.00.

Note 2: CD #1 is the balance of principal and interest on the Ann Barker memorial.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2003

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in Bank	\$16,595.45	
Savings Account	2,804.70	
Certif. of Deposit #1 (Note 2)	10,208.01	
Certif. of Deposit #2	10,634.54	
Certif. of Deposit #3	20,822.36	
Total Current Assets, 31 December 2003		\$61,065.06

FUND BALANCE BREAKDOWN

Birdathon	1,512.05	
Book Royalties	2,865.34	
Endowment Fund	4,941.39	
Project Fund	390.71	
Total Endowment Funds		\$9,709.49

Life Memberships	9,612.50	
Birdline Fund	—	
Meeting Reimbursement Fund	—	
Outside Projects Fund	1,302.00	
Total Specific Funds		10,914.50

Memorials	15,000.00	
Publications Acct. Fund	4,286.18	

General Operating Funds	21,154.89	
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TOTAL FUND BALANCE, 31 DECEMBER 2003		\$61,065.06
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Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Business Meeting 2004

15 May 2004

The IOU spring business meeting was held at the Village Creek Camp, Lansing, Iowa. President Richard Tetrault called the meeting to order at 4 P.M. In attendance were Dick Tetrault, president; Sharon Stilwell, vice president; Sue Spieker, secretary; Rita Goranson, treasurer; board members Bob Cecil, Judy Garton, John Rutenbeck, Ric Zarwell; and IOU members.

Secretary's Report. Susan Spieker, secretary, read the minutes from the April board meeting. There was one change made. Under the heading Publications Committee, Ann Johnson asked for the excess monies in the Publications Committee fund to be carried over each year. It should have read: "Ann Johnson asked for the Publications Committee fund to be carried over each year." So the motion approved should read "Rita Goranson moved and Sharon Stilwell seconded the motion to carry over these funds each year for the Publications Committee. The motion carried." The minutes were then approved.

Treasurer's Report. Rita Goranson said there is \$16,970.43 in the checking account, \$6,060.92 in savings, and \$41,777.58 in certificates of deposit. The total is \$64,808.93.

Registrar's Report. David Edwards gave some statistics on the IOU membership. Approximately 65% of members have e-mail. Most new memberships come through the on-line web site. There are 469 members plus two new memberships at the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publications Committee. Ann Johnson gave thanks to Tom Kent, Jim Dinsmore, Paul Hertzell, and Kay Niyo for their work.

Web and Listserv. Ann said the listserv now has over 300 people receiving e-mails. The seasonal field reports can now be entered on the web site. It is helping the field reports editors. There may still be a few bugs to be worked out so please let her know if you have problems.

Records Committee. Ann gave a brief report stating that there are just a few more records to review and then they will be current.

Membership Committee. John Rutenbeck handed out the new revised membership brochures. He asked all to take a few for passing out to those who may want to become members. Persons recruiting members will win money to purchase things from the web site store.

He said IOU will have a presence at the Pelican Festival again this year. We will also be at the Iowa State Fair and the Rivers and Bluffs Birding Festival. Posters were again put up in many places across Iowa with many thanks to Karen Disbrow for her efforts.

Conservation Committee. Jay Gilliam is chair for the Conservation Committee. Other members are Tom Johnson and Jane Clark.

Finance Committee. Rita Goranson and Tammy Hertzelt presented the new budget. There was some discussion. The liability insurance has been agreed on and money allotted in the budget for it. Ric Zarwell moved and Bob Cecil seconded the motion for \$500.00 to be allocated for an advertising budget for the IOU Trip Committee. The motion carried.

Judy Garton moved and Ric Zarwell seconded the motion to approve the 2004 budget. The motion carried.

Bird Trip Committee. Ric Zarwell is planning an IOU trip to Michigan to see the Kirtland Warbler in June 2004. Participants will carpool over and stay in an inexpensive motel. There already are several people on the list including Jenny Vickers from England.

Rivers and Bluffs Fall Birding Festival. The festival is the second weekend in November and costs \$10.00. Ric said 220 people from various states and Canada attended last year. Two years ago the estimated waterfowl count was 500,000 birds.

New Business. Doug Harr asked for volunteers to be on an advisory committee for the IA DNR. There will be a meeting on 17 July 2004. Jay Gilliam volunteered and Ann Johnson and Ric Zarwell will be in attendance.

The price for a REAP license has increased, which provides more money for DNR nongame projects. Doug said that a volunteer or appointment from the IOU needs to be on the REAP Committee, President Tetrault will make this appointment.

Election of Officers. Nominations from the membership for officers were called for. The slate as presented by the Nominating Committee was elected: Bob Cecil, secretary; Tammy Hertzelt, treasurer; and board members Jay Gilliam, John Rutenbeck, and Susan Spieker.

President Tetrault thanked outgoing board members for their years of service; Rita Goranson served six years as treasurer and Judy Garton served on the board for four years.

Fall Meeting. The fall IOU meeting will be at Wickiup Hill Natural Area near Cedar Rapids on 24–26 September 2004. The spring meeting will be in Indianola 13–15 May 2005.

Announcements. The Iowa River Corridor dedication as a Bird Conservation Area will be 25 May 2004. The Watchable Wildlife Conference will be in Dubuque the weekend of 6–8 May 2005.

Adjournment. Ann Johnson moved and Bob Cecil seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion carried.

Respectively submitted by Susan Spieker, secretary

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

An article by William Youngworth summarizing some of the birding experiences of T.C. Stephens was the lead article in the June 1954 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. Stephens, best known to current birders for the state forest named after him, was a leading figure in birding and conservation in Iowa during the first half of the Twentieth Century. Youngworth provides several stories about traveling with Stephens and the birders they met on those travels. Perhaps the best is his account of their visit with Althea and Dr. Amelia Sherman of National, Iowa in 1928. The Sherman sisters were very proper ladies and their strict etiquette when hosting two gentlemen is an amusing tale. The other long article is the second half of the late 1800s bird notes of Burtis Wilson of Davenport. Perhaps his most interesting find was a Brown Creeper nest in 1891, apparently the first one reported from Iowa. Among the short notes is one mentioning the booming grounds of the Greater Prairie-Chicken in Appanoose County, the last such site in Iowa.

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014-3907 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Goldfinch \$20, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Additional family members, \$4 per person. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Send subscriptions, membership payments, back issue requests, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (Dave@dandje.org).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent in Word or WordPerfect to the editor. Research manuscripts will be sent for peer review. Submission of material should be by e-mail attachment or IBM-formatted 3.5" diskette; alternatively, by mail, typed or handwritten.

Photos and graphics: Submit photos and slides preferably as TIFF (*.tif) images or as high resolution JPEG (*.jpg) images in e-mail attachment, on 3.5" diskette or CD, or by mail. All photos, slides, and graphics will be returned.

Send all materials other than seasonal field reports to Kayleen A. Niyo at Kay@KayNiyo.com or by mail to 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue** (Vol. 1), **April 1 for spring issue** (2), **July 1 for summer issue** (3), **October 1 for fall issue** (4). Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

IOU NEWS: Paul Hertzelt, Editor, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzelt@rconnect.com)

IOU WEB SITE: <<http://www.iowabirds.org>>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster. On-line resource for rare bird alerts, checklists, site guides, IOU information and membership. Support the IOU through purchases at the on-line IOU Nature Store.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Aaron Brees, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 8712 Carole Circle, Apt. 14, Urbandale, IA 50322 (abrees@hotmail.com).

IOWA BIRDLINE: Danny Akers (warbler_1231@hotmail.com)

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Post to ia-bird@lists.iowabirds.org. Subscribe at <<http://www.iowabirds.org/main/listserv.asp>>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes/membership subscriptions to Registrar David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (Dave@dandje.org).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Fall 2004: 24–26 September 2004, Wickiup Hill Natural Area along the Cedar River northwest of Cedar Rapids, IA; Spring 2005: 13–16 May 2005, Indianola, IA.

DESIGN: Lynn Ekblad, Ames, IA

GRAPHICS: Richard Beachler, Boone, IA



*Dickcissel in Fremont County, 20 May 2000.
Photograph by Reid Allen was the first place
winner of the first IOU photo contest, 15 May
2004.*

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